US Embassy favored 'Sikatuna' over Guingona

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

Days of cell phone snatchers numbered

'DI NA MAKA-KABILI NG MURANG CELLPHONES

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DAYS of cell phone snatchers and their fence may finally be over soon.

The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) is finalizing a scheme to

DAYS/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Hiring US PR firm stains GMA image

By Cynthia D. Balana, Carlito Pablo and Delfin Mallari
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is having image problems right at home after the Palace hired a US-based public relations agency for $1 million to enhance her "global image."

HIRING/ A4

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, January 29, 2002 ★★★ 42 pages / 3 sections / vol.17 / no. 52 P15 website: www.inq7.net

AFP: RP-US war games postponed

Officials are vague on what caused delay

By Martin Marfil and Blanche S. Rivera

THE CONTROVERSY-WRACKED Balikatan joint military exercise of Filipino and American troops has been postponed "until further notice," military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan announced last night.

At press time, military officials remained vague about the sudden announcement and what really caused the postponement.

The Baliktan was scheduled to start with a formal ceremony tomorrow, Wednesday, Jan.30.

Adan maintained that it had nothing to do with mounting protests against the war exercises though the politically influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday expressed full support for American assistance to crush the Abu Sayyaf bandits who are holding three hostages including an American missionary couple.

"Several details that have to be ironed out regarding the exercises would have to be sent to the US Pacific Command in Honolulu, Hawaii," Adan told reporters last night.

"This has nothing to do with the reported protests against the staging of the exercise in Western Mindanao . . . It's just that the details have to be relayed to the Pacific Command," he added.

Filipino exercise director, Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, told reporters that "changes were made in the terms of references" which affected the guidelines of the exercises.

He did not elaborate.

The postponement, Adan explained, could just be a matter of days.

Quoting the "expressed will of the people" of Mindanao, the CBCP welcomed US assistance.

"Help has been asked and help has been given," Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, CBCP president, said in a press conference at the CBCP headquarters in Manila. "If help is given by a friendly force, and if the legal issues are resolved, then I don't think we should go against our people's will in trying to end their own suffering."

AFP/ A6

Going to SC 'premature and unwise,' says Salonga

"PREMATURE and unwise."

That's how former Senate President Jovito R. Salonga described the plan of PeaceCamp, a coalition of militant groups, to question before the Supreme Court the legality of the deployment of American troops in Mindanao.

Salonga said the suit would be premature in light of the assertion by President Macapagal-Arroyo and the National Security Council that the Mutual Logistics and Servicing Agreement (MLSA) had yet to be finalized.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Justice may yet succeed in removing the alleged defects of the MLSA, according to Salonga.

He said the high court might also require opponents of the presence of US troops in Mindanao to show that they had exhausted the remedies available within the two branches of government—the executive and the legislative.

Moreover, the Supreme Court may choose to shy away from this controversial issue on the ground that it should not enter a "political thicket," that is involving itself in a partisan, political controversy, according to Salonga.

GOING/ A6

US Embassy embroiled in 'Sikatuna' affair

By Christine Herrera

THE "SIKATUNA" controversy hounding the Department of Foreign Affairs took a turn for the worse yesterday, after well-placed sources accused the US Embassy in Manila of breaching protocol and a former top embassy official of outright meddling in Philippine affairs.

"Sikatuna" is the code word allegedly used by DFA insiders to refer to former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo, who is reported to be in the middle of a turf war with Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

The sources said US officials, especially former Charge d'Affaires Michael Malinowski, often bypassed Guingona, the concurrent DFA secretary, by going straight to Malacañang. Romulo is also the presidential adviser on international competitiveness.

"It is quite alarming that the US Embassy officials breach protocol and go straight to Romulo and Malacañang. Our Philippine ambassador to Washington was not even allowed to go straight to the

US/ A6

WHEN LEADERS in the-war against terrorism meet, they find common cause in how to approach the global scourge as did British PM Tony Blair and President Macapagal on Monday during their meeting at 10 Downing St. in London. AFP

GMA, Blair to fight terror in hearts, minds, stomachs of poor people

By Tony S. Bergonia
Assistant National Editor

LONDON (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo and British Prime Minister Tony Blair are fighting terrorism in the hearts, minds and stomachs of impoverished people all over the world, according to the Philippine ambassador to the Court of St. James's.

The two leaders met yesterday at 10 Downing St., the prime minister's official residence, to discuss what Ambassador Cesar Bautista said was an approach to terrorism that would "address the root of the problem."

Bautista told reporters that Ms Macapagal and Blair had a "convergence of thinking" that terrorism was rooted in poverty and that fighting it did not involve military might alone.

"Terrorism is an old story," he said. "You don't just settle the problem by sending in the troops."

Bautista said the two leaders had mapped out common "action programs" that would help the international community wage a different war against terrorism.

GMA/ A4

CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

SURPRISE arrivals in Zamboanga City are Gracia Burnham's sister, Mary Jones, and husband, Lance Perry, who thank Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu.

Gracia's sis arrives in Zambo to appeal for Burnhams' release

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A sister of Abu Sayyaf hostage Gracia Burnham arrived here yesterday, triggering speculations that a negotiation is under way for her freedom and that of her husband Martin.

Mary Jones arrived with her husband and three people working for the US government at around 7:20 a.m. on a Cebu Pacific flight from Manila as American troops prepared for a joint military exercise aimed at wiping out the Abu Sayyaf.

Two of her companions were identified as agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but their names were not available.

Jones' arrival was unannounced and came as a surprise even to military commanders.

On Radio Mindanao Network, she asked the bandits to free the Kansas couple who have suffered eight months of captivity.

GRACIA'S/ A6

Desierto accused of 'bastardizing' office

Ombudsman calls 2nd impeach rap 'pure harassment'

By Christine Avendaño

THE COUNTRY'S chief graftbuster was accused yesterday of having "bastardized" and "raped" his constitutional office, as two congressmen led 16 other complainants in filing a second impeachment suit at the House of Representatives against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

But House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales doused the complainants' hopes, saying the filing would not prosper because of the one-year ban against initiating impeachment proceedings against the same official.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, lawyer Ernesto Francisco Jr. and leaders of people's organizations accused Desierto of whitewashing the government's case against those involved in the P5.3-billion tax credit scam.

Moreno appealed to his fellow congressmen to hold "in abeyance" the plenary vote on the first impeachment case against Desierto, "otherwise it will negate and render moot and academic" the new complaint.

"We hope the House would realize that and not allow Desierto to escape," Moreno said.

But Gonzales said the new complaint would "eventually" find it-

DESIERTO/ A4

JOAN BONDOC

NO LEGAL impediment for the filing of a 2nd impeachment complaint vs Desierto, according to Rep. Oscar Moreno and lawyer Ernesto Francisco.

Second FRONT PAGE

BAKA SI JAMES BOND ANG KELANGAN!

Blacklist of Pinay traffickers sought

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. Loren Legarda yesterday sought the blacklisting of two US citizens allegedly operating online mail-order bride firms that prey on Filipino women.

Legarda identified the US operators as Florida-based Larry Pendarvis and Delaney Davis, the owners of World Class Service and the Davis Place International Internet Services, which allegedly operate three websites selling Filipino women as brides and sex commodities.

"They should be declared as undesirable aliens and forever banned from entering the country," Legarda said.

The country's Anti-Mail-Order Bride Law penalizes a person or entity that carries on a business for the purpose of matching Filipino women for marriage to foreigners either on a mail-order basis or through a personal introduction for a fee.

However, the Anti-Mail Order Bride Law, or RA 6955 does not cover mail-order bride transactions through the Internet.

"This is understandable as the law was enacted in 1989, when the Internet was not as popular as now," explained Aurora Javate de Dios, chair of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, in a press statement.

Alarmed by the reports on the sale of Filipino women in the Internet, the NCRFW has urged Congress to immediately pass the Anti-Trafficking of Women and Minors bill now pending in the House of Representatives.

Senators hot on the trail of NGO bonds

SENATE investigators are reconstructing the paper trail in the government's controversial issuance of the so-called PEACE bonds that reportedly benefited a non-government organization one of whose leaders is a sister of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

In a letter to Senate finance committee chair Sen. John Osmeña, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. sought to subpoena at least eight documents which he said would form "part of the paper trail that will show whether or not the PEACE bonds (were) above-board."

The Senate finance committee is conducting an investigation into the issuance last October of 10-year Treasury zero-coupon notes, or PEACE bonds, that were bid out for P10 billion.

Code-NGO

The Caucus of Development NGO Networks (Code-NGO) allegedly lobbied the government for the issuance and sale of the bonds that allowed it to sell them for a profit, according to a position paper of the Action for Economic Reforms and Friends.

The AER, a group of academics and economists, said the Code-NGO was engaged in "impermissible rent-seeking"—or seeking profits through state-sanctioned monopoly rights or favors—even if it was for the benefit of its anti-poverty activities.

According to the AER, Code-NGO had participated in the auction through its securities dealer, the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. The RCBC cornered majority of the issue, sold it at a profit and turned over to Code-NGO P1.4 billion (P1.2 or P1.3 billion according to some accounts) which the NGO used to create a permanent endowment and capital fund for its PEACE Foundation.

Pimentel sought subpoenas for five letters of Code-NGO to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, to then Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo and to BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura regarding its proposal for the issuance.

Tax exemption

Pimentel also sought a subpoena for a Bureau of Internal Revenue ruling exempting the issuance from capital gains taxes.

The opposition has also asked for copies of two Monetary Board resolutions that granted "secondary reserve eligibility" to the PEACE bonds, thus making them attractive to the secondary bond market.

"We have been in the dark because many of these documents are not in our possession," said Pimentel. ***Rocky Nazareno***

Gem from Erap: Either you have 'it' or you don't

By Volt Contreras

A PERSON'S IQ, or intelligence quotient, can be increased through study, while charisma is something that, if you're not born with it, you'll never have.

Thus spoke former President Joseph Estrada as he tried to have the last word in the debate started by President Macapagal-Arroyo: Which leadership trait is better—a high IQ or great charisma?

Appearing in court for his plunder trial yesterday, the ousted president declared: "IQ can be acquired through study. Charisma cannot be acquired—it's God-given."

Estrada made the remark in a chance interview with reporters who sought his reaction to Ms Macapagal's recent potshots at his leadership style.

Speaking last Friday before Filipino-Chinese businessmen, President Macapagal asked if they preferred a popular leader who only "pretended" to know the job, an obvious reference to Estrada, or someone more competent yet short on charisma or the "common touch," like herself.

As to IQ, experts agree it could be increased slightly with study, but for the most part it is inborn—like charisma.

Charismatic or not, Estrada through his counsel managed yesterday to convince the new special division formed to handle his case to excuse him from attending future hearings.

This after defense lawyer Jose Flaminiano claimed, shortly after the 2 p.m. session began, that his client "could hardly walk" because of his arthritic knees. Flaminiano also cited the heart problems suffered by Estrada's son and co-accused Jinggoy Estrada.

Associate Justice Minita Chico Nazario, division chair, then called all the lawyers to a closed-door conference in her chambers to address not only Flaminiano's request but other procedural matters.

About 30 minutes into the meeting, the court allowed Estrada and his son to return to their detention suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City. Their other co-accused, lawyer Ed Serapio, was also allowed to leave the courtroom.

On his way out of the court, Estrada said he disapproved of his trial by a special Sandiganbayan division.

"I feel that I am being singled out. There are so many pending cases in the Sandiganbayan involving billions of pesos in government funds but no special court has been created for any of them," he complained.

His lawyers have taken this as a violation of the "equal protection" clause of the Constitution.

In the chamber conference, however, the lawyers and justices agreed to retain the present schedule of the plunder hearings—every Monday and Wednesday.

But starting next week, the trial will be held in the morning from 9 a.m. to noon instead of at 2 p.m.

UNMETERED
INTERNET ACCESS FOR ONLY
₱1,980
MONTHLY ABSOLUTELY NO EXCESS CHARGES
sign up online at www.asiagate.net
ASIAGATE 752-4969 or 77

If your breath smells death...
... it's about time you visit our clinic.
We offer an effective, safe and discreet solution to problems caused by bad breath.
We use a unique bacteria locator, the HALIMETER apparatus followed by patented medication & treatment.
Succeeding treatments are FREE!
Also Available: Teeth Bleaching • Dental Clinic For Lease/Sharing
Suite #224 Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. No. 811-4071 • 752-4735

RICOH COPIERS
AVAILABLE: LEASE TO OWN/RENTAL • WE TRANSACT 24 HOURS/DAY FROM MONDAY TO SUNDAY
P12,000 only Liquid Type
P16,000 only Powder Type
BOND PAPER=P65/rm. DISPERSANT=P42/ltr. U.S. SP. TONER=P260/ltr.
KAI General mdse. Tel.: 716-6110 • 713-8461 • 780-0302 • 780-0304
(INFRONT OF PUP ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE BLDG.) GC-1 BLDG. 3 GSIS METROHOMES, PUREZA, STA. MESA, MANILA
LUZON
Baguio (074) 443-6914 / 304-2946 / (0916) 4223811 • Tarlac (045) 800-0409 / (0916) 4856874 • Daet (054) 721-6829 • Naga 472-0494
Iriga (054) 656-2024 • Legaspi (052) 820-3345 • Masbate (056) 3332793
VISAYAS
Cebu (0917) 6082309 • Iloilo (033) 329-7828 • Tacloban (053) 325-3441 / (0919) 6516273 • Catbalogan (055) 251-2206 • Calbayog (055) 209-3322
MINDANAO
Davao (082) 222-6824 / (0917) 7324176 • Gen. Santos (083) 302-0743
Cagayan de Oro (088) 231-3850 / (0919) 2403898 • Iligan (063) 221-5482 •
Pagadian (062) 214-4551 • Cotabato (064) 421-6239 / (0919) 4247220 •

Cut this Ad worth 1 FREE YoYo Balloon Coffee Mug
BALLOON BUSINESS!
■ WORKSHOP SKED.: EVERY WED. or SAT.
■ RESERVATION REQUIRED
■ WITH FREE 2 YOYO BALLOONS!
C.B.E. YoYo Balloons (Located at SM Supermalls)
ENTRANCE DECOR
ONLY P22,500.00 INITIAL CAPITAL AND YOU CAN START YOUR OWN BALLOON BUSINESS RIGHT AWAY!
INCLUDES:
- Starter Kit: 1,000 + Imported U.S. Balloons (Different Sizes, Colors & Shapes)
- Balloon Pumps, (BIG AND SMALL)
- Balloon Printing Set
- Balloon Sticks and Cups, Clip Sticks
- Giant Balloon Drop Bags w/ Balloons
- Training Workshop Conducted by U.S. Trained Balloon Experts
- Certificate, Free Lunch and Snack
- Pictures, Brochures and more
- Practicum at 5 Star Hotel or other venues
OPTIONAL: Imported Electric Inflator P7,500.00 each
SALE! - 11" Bnd. U.S.A PRL. Balloons (P3.00 each) - 5" Bnd. U.S.A STD. Balloons (P 1.95 each)
WE WILL SHOW YOU HOW WITH OUR FREE WORKSHOP!
SUBMIT THIS AD WHEN YOU PAY AND WE WILL GIVE YOU FREE 1 YOYO BALLOON COFFEE MUG.
Call or Visit: YOYO BALLOONS 10-D Xavierville Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. Nos.: 922-5543 • 426-2073 920-1440 • Fax No.: 922-0068
YOU CAN USE YOUR OWN TRADE NAME! NO NEED TO PAY ANY FRANCHISE FEE!
VALID UNTIL 27 FEBRUARY 2002
THIS ADVERTISEMENT APPEARS EVERY TUESDAY

CCTV Surveillance Camera
BIG Discount High Quality with 1 yr. warranty
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR PROMO PRICE!!!
Mini Digital B/W 4,275 COLOR 6,400
Waterproof B/W 4,275 COLOR 5,560
Dome type B/W 4,275 COLOR 6,840
Pinhole type B/W 3,850 COLOR 5,560
2.4 GHz Wireless Video/ Audio Monitoring System
• Easy Installation / NO CABLE COST
• Easy Connect w/ any Home, TV, VCR, VHS, DVD, & others
• Built in 4-cam switcher
Dial into your business, branches, warehouses, residence or factories and see live video anytime...anywhere!!!
TeleEye III
MICROSERVE Co.
4115264 • 3651446 • 3611654
291 -H Del Monte Ave. Quezon City
CALL for FREE DEMO
Distributor of Tele Eye Remote Monitoring System
TeleEye Dial to any remote site & see live video of everything that is happening there day or night!

HYDRAULIC STACKERS
Lift Heights Available:
1,600 MM / 2,450 MM
2,850 MM / 3,300 MM
1 Metric Ton Max Load
Electric & Manual Models
• 1,600 mm.........P75,000
AC
PALLET TRUCKS
2, 2.5 & 3 Tons Load
Low & Standard Profile
Wide & Narrow Forks
Also In: Stainless Steel & Galvanized Materials
• 2.5 tons...........P18,500
• 3 tons.............P28,500
Imported From DENMARK
* High Strength Steel for Low Weight * Built-in Overload Valve *
* Double Seal Fluid Tight Stable Hydraulic System * Versatile * Mobile *
* Maintenance Free * Low Profile * ISO 9001 * Two Years Warranty *
VICTOR HARDWARE 697-699 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City, Philippines
Tel.: (632) 743-6761 • Fax: 743-4587 & 732-0169 • E-mail: victorhardware@i-manila.com.ph

Electro Bhagwan
• Top-of-the-line model
• Fully-automatic
• Can be used with PVC or metal water pipes
• Does not require grounding
• Good for any water type
• Lifetime FREE service
• Comes with FREE handshower set
Auto Bhagwan
• Built for G.I. or metal pipes
• Newly-improved model
• Fully-automatic
• Trusted by customers for years
• Comes with FREE handshower set
HEAT up those CHILLY mornings and nights with BHAGWAN Water Heater
Unlike other brands, we carry complete spare parts. We still service vintage models.
OTHER MODELS ALSO AVAILABLE.
FREE INSTALLATION W/IN METRO MANILA
BHAGWAN HEATER CORPORATION
75 Sto. Domingo cor. M. Aggregado Sts. Q.C.
Tel. Nos.: 712-0788 • 712-0799
Office Hours: 9 am to 12 nn/ 1 pm to 5 pm
For Cebu: Contact Shewalk's Engravables Tel# 255-4361 & 255-4362
We accept convertions & home service. Repairs while you wait. Free delivery.

COPIERS
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
₱12,000. ONLY LIQUID TYPE SAVIN 780 220 V, 60Hz
₱16,000. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320 220 V, 60Hz
₱46,500. ONLY BRAND NEW DIGITAL COPIER + PRINTER 5512-A
100% GUARANTEED! KATUN TONERS & PARTS FOR USE IN SHARP, CANON, RICOH, MINOLTA, TOSHIBA, SELEX, MITA, GESTETNER, RISO, KONICA, ETC.
NOW AVAILABLE: LEASE TO OWN / RENTAL (We Accept Trade-in)
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg 550 M! Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Nr. NU)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56 • 781-3472 • 749-8216
Prov'l Outlets: Cabanatuan: (0919)7090934 • Cebu: 253-2402
Tarlac: (0918)-6738497
CHEAPER REFILL INK AND CARTRIDGES FOR MOST COMPUTER PRINTER MODELS!

LAFAYETTE PHARMACEUTICAL LABORATORIES, INC.
Pandacaqui, Mexico, Pampanga
"QUALITY IS OUR BEST POLICY"
QUALITY GENERICS AT VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES
LOOKING FOR DISTRIBUTORS NATIONWIDE
FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL:
LAFAYETTE PHARMACEUTICALS
#132 13th Avenue Cubao, Q.C.
TEL NO: 437-5139 / 913-3724
911-7292 / Telefax: 913-3723

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS
SUMMER - April, May 2002.
(Adult Leaders will accompany all groups)
Grade School (9 to 14 years old)
USA (Florida • Boston)
ENGLAND
High School (15 to 17/18 years old)
USA (Boston)
England
College (18 to 24 years old)
• Oxford (Language & Culture) • Nice + Paris (Language & Culture)
• Italy (Bread, Wine & Language) • China (Business & Language)
• Australia (Hotel Restaurant Management / Tourism)
CONTINUING EDUCATION
USA
The University of California Riverside
- Global Business Management Certificate and Internship
Who should attend? Middle managers, entrepreneurs, business students, human resources personnel. and those interested in the field of global management.
Venues:
California or New York
Course dates 2002:
April 1-June 7
June 24-Aug 30
Sept. 30-Dec. 6
UK
Teacher Training. Two week courses
• Pre-service • Novice • Experienced
• Teacher Trainer • Manager
Venues:
Cambridge & Hastings
(Details and 2002 calendar available upon request)
FORMAL STUDY
United Kingdom
Private Boarding Schools -(8 to 18 yrs old)
Universities
Postgraduate study
Pre-MBA course
Masters Qualifying Programme
United States of America
Boarding Schools (14 to 18 yrs old)
High School Exchange Program (15 to 18 yrs old)
Colleges and Universities
Postgraduate study
Australia
Boarding Schools
High School Program
Certificate, Diploma, Degree courses
MBA programme
Information Technology courses
Internship/Work Experience (non-paid)
Spain
Boarding Schools
High School Program
The Netherlands
High School Program
Switzerland
Hotel Restaurant Management -degree and postgraduate
INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN STUDY, INC.
Suite 805 Ferros Bel-air Tower, No.30 Polaris St. Bel-air, Makati City 1209
Tel. 896-7010 to 11 • Fax 896-6403 • E-mail: ifs@ skyinet.net • Website:www.ifsphil.com
Or text : Cebu (0917-3214002) • Davao (0916-3251861) • Manila (0917-4020686)

SPECIAL PACKAGES	
SINGAPORE + MALAYSIA + INDONESIA	$ 345
HONGKONG	$ 174
BANGKOK PACKAGE	$ 245
SINGAPORE	$ 285
BANGKOK + PATTAYA	$ 268
SAIGON	$ 309
KUALA LUMPUR	$ 360
US TOUR	$ 2,488
EUROPE	$ 2,868

TICKET ONLY	
HONGKONG	$ 160
BANGKOK	$ 223
SINGAPORE	$ 235
SEOUL	$ 400
TOKYO	$ 385
LAX / SFO	$ 650
NEW YORK	$ 720
NEW JERSEY	$ 720
TORONTO	$ 860
VANCOUVER	$ 730

Int'l & Domestic Ticket Issuance, Hotel Reservations, Visa Assistance, Passporting, Car Rental, All Major Credit Cards Accepted
FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURS
Rm. 202 Dona Mercedes Bldg #564 San Andres St. Malate, Mla
Tel Nos 536-9300 / 400-5017 / 338-3314 • Telefax: 536-0382
Cel No.: 0917-9841200 • Email: flight@skyinet.net
AIR TRAVEL GUIDE & TOURS INC.
G/F Casa Blanca Bldg., R. Salas, Ermita Manila
Tel No.: 400-3013 to 14 / 523-8251 loc. 725 / 524-9752 • Telefax:522-0354
Cell Nos.: 0917-527-4632 / 0917-940-6252 / 0919-626-3246
E-mail: airtrv@amadeusph.com • Open on Sundays • For inquiries 741-1907

Globe HANDYPHONE
TXTCITED to Win every hour?
Here's the word of the day. Text now!
U A P A
Clue: Find out exciting details about college basketball through the _ _ _ _ community in myGlobe!
Unscramble the letters and send with your name and address to 2255. Don't forget to put a space between words. Win the hottest Nokia phones and cash prizes every hour from 10AM to 4PM daily, so keep texting!

Toxic paint downs 'black warriors'

BACOLOD CITY—Fifty teenagers taking part in an amateur dance contest in Cadiz City were rushed to hospital after using body paint that turned out to be toxic, a city health official said yesterday.

Members of the Tribu Aragon dance group daubed themselves with black paint to look like tribal warriors at a local religious festival on Sunday, city health officer Romeo Agraviador said.

Some of them later suffered dizziness and shortness of breath and were taken to hospital.

Agraviador said the paint apparently contained lead, a toxic metal.

Most of the dancers were quickly discharged after treatment although some complained they still were not feeling well. *AFP*

Need Help? We fix all computer problems,
...specially computer VIRUS!
FAST & RELIABLE
ON-SITE SERVICE
Call our hotline today
PCMed 303-8888
Service & Support
Save this ad for your future requirements.

Flight Holidays
Tour Packages...tour with us and see the difference!
"Let those that 'seek' Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee..." Psalms 40:16

HOLIDAY ASIAN PACKAGES
Hong Kong 4D/3N via PR $188
Hong Kong + 1 Nite Shenzhen 4D/3N via PR $215
Hong Kong + 1 Nite Macau $220
Macau Package 4D/3N via NX $275
Singapore 4D/3N via PR $288
Bangkok 4D/3N via PR $248
Seoul Package 4D/3N via PR $525
Kuala Lumpur 4D/3N via MH $360
Saigon Package 3D/2N $308
Brunei Tour 3D/2N via Royal Brunei $325

SPECIAL PACKAGES
Singapore + Indonesia & Malaysia 4D/3N $345
Singapore + Kuala Lumpur 5D/4N $365
Bangkok + Pattaya 4D/3N $278

TICKET ONLY

Hong Kong	$160	Seoul	$415	New York	$845
Bangkok	$225	Sydney	$630	Vancouver	$735
Singapore	$240	Tokyo	$415	Toronto	$820
Taipei	$315	LAX / SFO	$650	Europe	$790
				Guam	$395

FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURS
Rm. 202 Doña Mercedes Bldg., San Andres St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: [illegible]
Cell Nos.: [illegible]
E-mail Address: [illegible]

AVAIL OF BIG DISCOUNTS !!!
INVENTORY SALE
- Imported Marble and Granite (from Italy)
- Also other imported materials like Veneer/Mosaic Tiles/Glass/many Others
- We also fabricate countertop with **Free** Installation

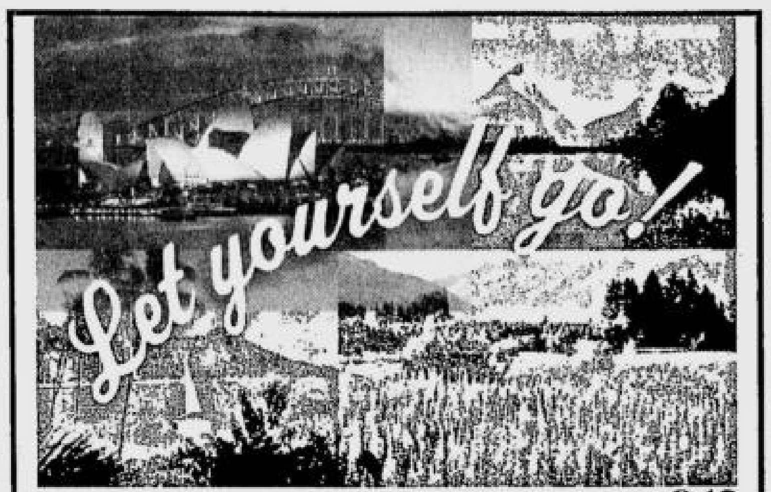
HURRY WHILE SUPPLY LAST
Contact Darwin or Cherry
Tel. No. 825-8757

A Heart Attack Is FATAL
BE READY IF IT STRIKES!
•Handy and Portable
•Ideal for travel
•Imported from U.S.A.
OXYLITE PORTABLE OXYGEN
[fareastmedical.net]
SM MANILA 5TH Floor 484-1471
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-04-36
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-75-40
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 800-40-93
GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN Shoppesville 721-34-87
CEBU 262-32-39

PC BODEGA GUARANTEED Brand New Components
Your One-Stop Computer Shop
www.pcbodega.com.ph Order-Online
Computer On Sale!

P4 REVOLUTION	ARMADA GAMEMASTER	PCB SMALLOFFICE
Pentium 4 1.4 GHz	Pentium III 800 Mhz	Celeron 850 Mhz
SIS chipset Mboard 128MB Memory 32MB S3 Savage 4, 32bit AudioCard 20GB 5400rpm HDD, 52X CD-Drive 1.44MB FDD, 15" Monitor, 120W speaker 500W AVR, 56k modem	VIA Chipset Mboard, 256MB Memory GeForce MX 32MB, 32bit AudioCard 20GB 7200rpm HDD, 1.44MB FDD 17" Monitor, 180W speaker, 500W AVR 10/100 Mbps NIC	VIA Chipset Mboard, 128MB Memory Video and 32bit Audio controller 20GB 5400rpm HDD, 52X CD-Drive 1.44MB FDD, 14" Monitor, 180W speaker 500W AVR, 56k modem
"INTERNET READY" P 26,000	"NETWORK READY" P 26,500	"INTERNET READY" P 17,800

SEAGATE HARDDISK 20GB 5400rpm — 3,650; 40GB 5400rpm — 4,300; 40GB 7200rpm — 5,100
MAG Monitor 15" XJ558 — 4,650; 19" XJ810 — 8,500
CyberDrive CDWriter 16x12x40 P4,250 Limited Stocks Only!
Tel# (02)721-4482/724-7905/724-7819 #12A Doña Juana S. Rodriguez Ave. New Manila Q.C (corner aurora blvd., infront of Broadway Centrum)



Australia
7D/6N Sydney & Melbourne US$ 842
7D/6N Brisbane/Gold Coast/Sydney US$ 862
10D/9N Brisbane/Gold Coast/Sydney/Melbourne US$ 1069
New Zealand 7N/8D North and South Islands US$ 1496

Norwegian Cruise Line Freestyle Cruising
NCL
• 7D Alaska Cruise* US$ 749
Departs: April 29 & May 13
• 7D Hawaiian Island Cruise* US$ 717
Departs: April 21, 28 & May 19
* Cruise Fare only!

Call your Destination Manager! TOURS & SIGHTS, INC.
2/F Pink Star Bldg., 1804 Leon Guinto cor. J. Nakpil Sts., Malate, Manila
Tel.: 521-5556 Fax: 3380826 E-mail: toursights@eastern.com.ph

Hi Wire
UNMETERED
internet access
All the Internet you can use for only ₱1,000 a month
PLUS
EARN ₱10,000 for every 3 users you refer!
CALL NOW 8788588
info@hiwire.net.ph www.hiwire.net.ph

BEST VALUE TOUR PACKAGES
TRAVEL ASIA
Count on ABACUS and travel with confidence
FREE! Cellphone Case and Travel Insurance
HONGKONG 4Days
Panda Htl $174
+1N Macau $179
SINGAPORE 3D $276 4D $285
$340 SIN/INDO/MAL
Saigon 3D $320 MARCO POLO HOTEL
KUALA L. 3D $368
BANGKOK via LH 4D $236
$175 3N EXT SIN
$195 3N EXT KUALA L.
$215 3N EXT HKG
Korea 3D $505
Australia 4D $527
GSA for Star Cruises
LEO $512 VIRGO $527

BUDGET AIRFARES

	OW	RT		OW	RT		OW	RT
Hongkong	80	146	K. Lumpur	215	397	San Francisco	395	640
Macau	95	155	Jakarta	250	395	Newark	685	710
Bangkok	160	220	Seoul	225	365	Las Vegas	442	827
Singapore	190	215	Saigon	245	280	Vancouver	355	735
Taipei	215	312	Chicago	415	833	Toronto	406	836
Tokyo	240	410	Honolulu	395	599	Australia	370	405
Osaka	265	399	Los Angeles	369	610	Europe	390	770

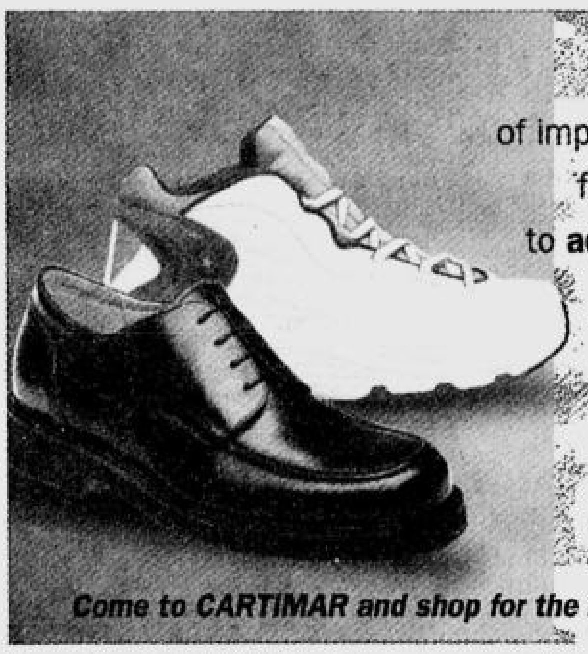
TRANSNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURS INC
MAKATI: 753-3388 / 3005 / 1121 / 817-1566 / 1571 • 894-0974
Fax 753-5588 • 845-0679 Cell No(0917) 535-1581 / 791-6236
• E-mail tranlvi@amadeusph.com / tnl_ange@abacus.com.ph
Mandaluyong: 747-1284 / 3295-96 / Fax 532-5715

KITANO®/K8 www.nibo88.com
SEIKO Made in Japan TIME RECORDER
• Heavy Duty
• 2 color printing
• Melody function
• Auto card feed
• W/ Security password
P7,300
TIME RECORDER
Heavy Duty CHECKWRITER
P2,998 LAMINATOR
HEAVY DUTY BINDING MACHINE 24 HOLES
HEAVY DUTY PUNCHER
PAPER SHREDDER P488
Makati Tel.: 8905310 • 8905320 • 8905327

DLI GENERICS
QUALITY NA MURA PA SA BOTICA
Reduced Retail Price

	Price		Price
Ambroxol Syrup 30 mg/5mL, 60 mL	61.00	Cloxacillin Suspension 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	71.00
Amoxicillin Drops, 10 ml	40.00	Diclofenac Sod. Film Coated Tablet 50 mg	4.70
Amoxicillin Capsule 250 mg	3.40	Erythromycin Tab 500 mg	12.00
Amoxicillin Capsule 500 mg	5.00	Glibenclamide Tablet 5 mg	2.60
Amoxicillin Suspension 250 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	65.00	Isoniazid Tablet 300 mg	1.10
Bromhexine HCl Syrup 4mg/5 mL, 60 ml	45.00	Mefenamic Acid Tablet 500 mg	3.00
Bromhexine HCl Tablet 8 mg	1.40	Multi-Vitamin Syrup 60 mL	56.00
Carbocisteine (SCMC) Capsule 500 mg	4.20	Multi-Vitamin Tablet	3.00
Carbocisteine Syrup (SCMC) 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	46.00	Paracetamol Drops, 15 mL	31.00
Cephalexin Capsule 500 mg	11.00	Paracetamol Syrup 250 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	33.00
Cefalexin Drops 100 mg/mL, 10 mL	58.00	Paracetamol 500 mg	0.80
Cephalexin Suspension 250 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	103.00	Rifampicin Suspension 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	68.00
Chloramphenicol Suspension 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	83.00	Rifampicin Capsule 450 mg	10.70
Co-trimoxazole Suspension (TM-40 mg, SMZ-200 mg) 60 mL	48.00	Salbutamol Syrup 2 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	37.00
Co-trimoxazole Tablet (TM-160 mg, SMZ-800 mg)	5.00	Salbutamol Tablet 2 mg	1.40
Cloxacillin Capsule 500 mg	8.00	Vitamins B1 + B6 + B12 Tablet	2.00

Member: Generic Association of the Phil., Available nationwide.
Address: 3rd Floor Lawyers Coop Bldg., 459 Quezon Ave. Quezon City, MetroManila
Tel. Nos.: 711-3933, 741-7763, 712-4990, 741-9203, 743-1626, 743-1626 FAX: 712-4921, 743-1622
E-Mail: pacific@DLI-Generics.com Complete FACTORY PRICES available at WEBSITE: www.DLI-Generics.com
DEALERS/DISTRIBUTORS ARE WELCOME



Simply the **widest selection** of imported formal and athletic footwear brands: from **Ferragamo, Florsheim** and **Bally**, to **adidas** and **Nike**... and much, much more!
Now with over 60 shoe shops!
CARTIMAR
THE INTERNATIONAL SHOPPING CENTER
Taft Avenue, Pasay City, Metro Manila
Come to CARTIMAR and shop for the best gifts at bargain prices any day of the year!

Facial Care Centre's
Reverse Ageing Resolutions
Buy One Take One
EXTENDED!
You can still take advantage of this ONCE-A-YEAR chance to improve your skin! Come to Facial Care Centre and avail of our BIG NEW YEAR OFFER:
BUY ONE, TAKE ONE on ADVANCED LASERTONE TREATMENT is EXTENDED from January 28 - 31, 2002* only!
Don't miss this BIGGEST OPPORTUNITY to experience Reverse Ageing only happening this January.
Call Facial Care Centre NOW!
*Promo is extended approved by DTI-NCR
Facial care centre
Where Beautiful Skin Happens
NOW OPEN
MAKATI 817-3323 812-6080/81 Solid Mills Bldg., dela Rosa St.
ORTIGAS 687-2196 687-2197 631-3007 • 631-3045 Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave.
QUEZON CITY 372-6633 372-6634 410-3709 • 410-3710 Cedar Executive Bldg. Timog Avenue
SHAW 534-7701/02 717-0076 Sunshine Square Plaza
ALABANG 842-1144 809-9583 / 850-4577 Citibank-Frabelle Bldg. Alabang-Zapote Rd.
BINONDO 243-8138/39 243-8602 / 243-9895 City Plaza Tower, Plaza del Conde St.
CONGRESSIONAL 920-7938 920-7992 / 920-8064 Q Plaza Congressional Avenue
PAMPANGA 961-3404/08 860-2663/64 Dan's Marketing Bldg., McArthur Highway, San Fernando
CEBU 233-7631 233-7633/35 Keppel Centre, Cebu City
ALL CENTERS ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.
Per DTI-NCR Permit #4400, Series of 2001
MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM) / SUN. (10 AM - 3 PM)

Desierto accused of 'bastardizing' office

(From page A1)

self falling under the one-year ban. The House is expected to vote soon—by tomorrow at the earliest—on whether to approve the House justice committee's report dismissing the first impeachment complaint against Desierto for being insufficient in substance.

In a chance interview yesterday, however, Desierto maintained his innocence and dismissed the second complaint as another form of "pure harassment."

At the Estrada plunder trial in the Sandiganbayan, Desierto told reporters he saw three reasons he had come under renewed attack.

First, he said, "so that I will be using most of my time answering this harassment and so I might not be able to concentrate on studying cases that are controversial."

Second, "for the personal aggrandizement of those harassing me."

And third, because "those who have cases filed against them by the Ombudsman are now being vindictive."

"My conscience is clear," he insisted. "The records are clear and there is nothing at all that is irregular."

Impeachment rules

Under the new impeachment rules, an impeachment complaint is deemed initiated on the day the House justice committee finds a complaint sufficient in substance or the House votes to affirm or overturn the House committee report, according to Gonzales.

Once the House makes the vote, he added, the one-year ban against the initiation of impeachment proceedings against the same impeachable official then begins to take effect.

"So the second impeachment complaint would be overtaken by events," he told reporters.

"Once a plenary action is taken (on the impeachment complaint) then the second becomes the weakest link, so it's time to say goodbye," he said at one point—making a playful but pointed reference to the popular game show.

But Francisco, who filed the first case, contended that if what Gonzales said was true, then "the moment there is a pending impeachment complaint, the next complaint to be filed is moot and academic."

In the new impeachment complaint, Desierto was charged with betraying public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution, for allegedly bungling the prosecution of the tax credit scam involving the Chingkoe Group of companies as well as other companies with cases before the Sandiganbayan, the anti-graft court.

Last week, Moreno accused Desierto in a privilege speech of whitewashing the plunder case against the 12 Chingkoe companies, by filing a flawed consolidated plunder case against Chingkoe "destined for dismissal by design."

In the new complaint, Desierto was accused of bungling the prosecution and investigation of 145 tax credit scam cases before the Sandiganbayan by:

- Not filing a single plunder case against the perpetrators of the scam, despite the recommendation in 2000 of two Senate committees, on ways and means and the Blue Ribbon that it do so.
- Downgrading 42 tax credit scam cases from plunder to graft despite his own graft probers' recommendation to do otherwise;
- Causing the dismissal of 62 cases against 50 individuals, including the former chair and several vice presidents of Petron, for his unreasonable delay in terminating the reinvestigation of the cases after one year and seven months.
- Causing the dropping of charges against the general manager of Pilipinas Shell in 23 cases and the withdrawal of charges against some of the accused, including the Shell general manager, in nine cases.
- Causing unreasonable and unexplained delay in the reinvestigation by the Ombudsman of all tax credit scam cases, a delay which has lasted almost 2 years.

The complaint also said Desierto was responsible for "the clear pattern of deliberate delay in the handling of the tax credit scam cases in the Sandiganbayan by immediately filing the case before the anti-graft court without waiting for the 5-day period from receipt of the resolution to file the case."

Because of this, the complainants said "none of the cases examined has reached the arraignment stage after almost 2 years from the time they were filed."

Joining the case as complainants were Joel Rocamora of Akbayan, Ferdinand Gaite of Courage, Marie Enriquez of Selda, Raffy Albert, Raymond Villanueva of the Alliance of Concerned teachers, Giovanni Tapang of Agham, Raymond Palatino of the National Union of Students in the Philippines, Lana Libanan of Gabriela, Rita Bana of Bayan, Clara Rita Padilla of Ouster and Carmen "Nanay Mameng" Deunida of Kadamay.

Ocampo, who was joined by his party-list colleagues Crispin Beltran and Liza Maza, told reporters his group did not see any legal impediment to the filing of a second complaint, because the House had yet to act with finality on the first one. ***With a report from Volt Contreras***

One fact-finder, different findings

By John Nery

IN A SPAN of 18 months, the Office of the Ombudsman issued at least two fact-finding reports on the alleged involvement of two major oil firms and several Chingkoe companies in the P5.3-billion tax credit scam, but the reports—approved or acted upon by the same official—reached different conclusions.

In the report dated Feb. 29, 2000, the Ombudsman's investigators recommended the filing of anti-graft charges against top executives of Petron and Pilipinas Shell, including Petron chair Monico Jacob and Shell general manager Pacifico Cruz. The report investigated the reported involvement of several garment firms in the illegal and fraudulent transaction of fake tax credit certificates, including at least seven Chingkoe companies.

The report was approved by Pelagio Apostol, director of the Ombudsman's Evaluation and Preliminary Investigation Bureau, a month later, on March 28.

But in another fact-finding report, dated Sep. 5, 2001, Ombudsman investigators probing the involvement of all 12 Chingkoe companies did not find any oil executive criminally liable for tax fraud. The complaint-affidavit based on this report, dated Oct. 17, did not therefore file charges against any official of the oil firms implicated in the scam.

On Jan. 3, 2002, the same Apostol, again in his capacity as EPIB director, signed a subpoena order initiating the preliminary investigation for a consolidated plunder case against all 12 Chingkoe companies. The order did not include any oil firm executives as respondents.

The first fact-finding report was submitted by a panel of four graft investigators, including Jose de Jesus Jr., now the spokesperson for Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

The second report, filed by Elena Barcenal, was coursed through Gerardo Lantoria Jr., head of the Ombudsman's Fact-Finding and Investigation Bureau, and Edward Pagunsan, Assistant Ombudsman.

The contrasting findings of the two reports mean the Office of the Ombudsman first found oil executives criminally liable for violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, in a scheme involving seven Chingkoe companies—and then 18 months later, in an investigation covering all 12 Chingkoe companies, found them without any criminal liability whatsoever.

Last week, former Estrada impeachment trial prosecutor and Misamis Oriental Congressman Oscar Moreno accused Desierto of taking a dive on the tax credit scam by deliberately filing a weak case "destined for dismissal by design," a legal maneuver since dubbed "ombudscam."

The two fact-finding reports also reach different conclusions regarding the culpability of Faustino and Gloria Chingkoe, the couple who owned the companies, and the corporate executives who ran the firms.

In the 2000 report, the complaints against six of the seven Chingkoe managers were recommended for dismissal for "lack of probable cause." The first report also did not include the Chingkoe couple as respondents. The fate of Reynato Andaya, general manager of Diamond Knitting, was left unclear. (There was no mention of him in the dispositive or recommendatory part of the report.)

In the 2001 report, however, the Chingkoe spouses were found criminally liable, a finding that was reflected in the Oct. 17 complaint-affidavit. But Apostol's subpoena order of Jan. 3 did not include the Chingkoe couple.

Hiring US PR firm stains GMA image

(From page A1)

Yesterday, the President came under strong attack not just from opposition senators. Senators belonging to the ruling coalition also said there was no need for Malacañang to prop up her image and that of the administration by hiring the PR firm Burson-Marsteller (B-M).

Militant groups like the Bukluran ng Mangagawang Pilipino have branded the media hype for the Macapagal administration as "a cheap gimmick."

About the only good word on the hiring of B-M came from the Palace after it admitted that it had indeed hired the US PR firm.

"We want to project a very good image outside the country. This is very important not only for our pride and prestige but also for investments to come in," Press Secretary Noel Cabrera said yesterday.

One of the world's top PR firms, B-M, according to a source who first reported the story to the INQUIRER, was hired for the duration of the President's 10 day-swing through Europe, Canada and the United States.

B-M will reportedly arrange all of the President's media exposures abroad through interviews, press conferences and TV guestings.

Timing off

In a press conference, Senate Majority Leader Sen. Loren Legarda said that while most administrations hired PR firms in times of crisis, she said that the use of the PR firm at this time was not timely.

Known for crisis management, B-M handled such clients as Union Carbide to soften the impact of the poisonous gas disaster in Bhopal, India, where over 300 people died; the government of Chile during its most repressive years; the Three Mile Island nuclear accident in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

"I think the government needs funds for more important matters than improving the image of the President which is already good enough in the international arena," Legarda said.

"I think there is some explaining to do on where the money came from and how will it be spent for PR," she said.

Too much

Another administration senator, Francis Pangilinan, said the amount mentioned for the services of the PR firm was too much.

"It's good to look into it but I doubt if that is really the actual amount. But if the amount is correct, then I think that is not justified. That is too big," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said it was "unnatural" for Malacañang to hire a foreign-based PR firm at this time of crisis.

Pimentel expressed doubt that the amount paid for PR services was commensurate to the needs of the nation. He said the people were entitled to know who were paying for the PR image of the President and her administration.

"Are these the new cronies that are being haggled by administration?" he asked. "The people are entitled to know that because if certain favorites are going to emerge among business people, there is also the beginning of wider disenchantment about the playing field not being leveled," he added.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said that the PR firm was for the President's image building than the country's image because she was doing a "lousy job" as president.

'Escapist'

Angara said that the President did not have to hire an expensive PR firm to boost her image since she can always take a lesson about catching kidnappers from opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

He noted the President's "escapist" tendency by going abroad every time her image in the domestic front went awry.

"The real public opinion is right here," Angara stressed. "This is the public opinion that we ought to influence and change."

Angara said the President should have not gone abroad since her "frequent pilgrimages" were damaging to the people.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay said past presidents of the Philippines had also resorted to the hiring of PR firms in the United States to boost the country's image and their use for media communications was very important to promote goodwill.

B-M was also used by then President Fidel V. Ramos on his trip to France in the early 1990s.

Not involved

Cabrera said he was not involved in the hiring of B-M but noted it was a "good" move.

The INQUIRER source reported the hiring was done by Dante Ang, President Macapagal's longtime private publicist and considered the unofficial press secretary.

Palace officials claimed that the firm's services were had for less than $1 million and that it's the country's overall image which it will improve abroad.

"The Office of the Press Secretary has no contract with this group," Cabrera said.

Cabrera said it was "not farfetched" that businessmen chipped in money because they were among those "hard hit by bad publicity" about the country.

"If they (businessmen) are supporters of the administration and if it redounds to the benefit of the country, then it's okay," Cabrera said.

The hiring of foreign public relations companies is "not uncommon" and was resorted to by President Macapagal's predecessors, according to Cabrera.

He said hiring such companies are not an unusual practice "especially so because of the foreign trips of the President."

Foolishness

In Lucena City, Ferdie Perez, Southern Tagalog president of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP), said "It is sheer foolishness."

Perez said that by hiring the services of a US media firm, Ms Macapagal has disregarded the advice of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin to avoid media hypes in addressing the problems of the country.

He said the President had also contradicted her earlier statements that she would rather have a high IQ than a charismatic personality.

Perez argued that while Ms Macapagal declared that she has a higher IQ "compared to the half-witted Estrada, why then is she continually imitating his gimmicks?"

GMA, Blair to fight terror in hearts, minds, stomachs

(From page A1)

He said Blair was likely to wage this new campaign among the members of the Group of 7, the organization of the world's wealthiest nations, and Ms Macapagal, among the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) or the Group of 77, the organization of the world's poorest.

The President and her party arrived at London's Heathrow airport around 5:05 a.m. (1:05 p.m. in Manila) Monday on the first leg of her eight-day swing through the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

They were welcomed at the airport's Royal Suite by John Garner, representative of Britain's secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, British Ambassador to the Philippines Alan Collins, Bautista and the ambassadors of the Asean countries.

They proceeded to the Dorchester Hotel in Central London, where Philippine Embassy officials and their children as well as representatives of the Filipino community greeted the President.

Also on Ms Macapagal's official schedule here is a meeting with former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. She was to lead a prayer for peace, unity and prosperity during an ecumenical service at the Westminster Cathedral shortly before noon yesterday.

The President flies to Ottawa in Canada after a 29-hour stay in London.

Common philosophy

Bautista said it was not difficult to understand how easily Ms Macapagal and Blair came to share a common outlook on the roots of terrorism.

"(The United Kingdom) is the closest to the Philippines in terms of reality," he said. "We share a common philosophy, a common love for democracy, human rights."

Bautista also cited the two countries' previous agreements on exchange of information, and, following the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States, on the training of Philippine and British soldiers.

"(But) the relationship is not more on military (aspects)," he pointed out. "It is more on attacking the roots of the problem."

To this end, Britain is providing through nongovernment organizations financial aid to the world's poorest of the poor, or those who are earning less than a dollar a day, the ambassador said. He added that the Philippines was not classified in this category.

Bautista said the two leaders would also discuss Scotland Yard's offer to help the Philippine National Police fight organized crime, including kidnapping syndicates.

He said Scotland Yard could be the most qualified international agency to train Philippine law enforcers on crime-fighting techniques.

"Their law enforcers are well trained and well compensated," he said.

Investments

Bautista said the President's visit to the United Kingdom would not only signal more investments in the Philippines but also facilitate further discussions on agreements already in the pipeline.

He said the expected agreements for this year between the two countries would amount to about $3 billion.

For the last 10 years, Britain has been one of the leading investors in the Philippines.

At present, the single largest British investment project in the Philippines is the development of the Malampaya offshore gas field being undertaken by Shell.

Days of cell phone snatchers numbered

(From page A1)

have stolen cell phones, whether acquired through postpaid or prepaid subscription plans, blocked by cellular service providers.

NTC Commissioner Eliseo Rio Jr. told reporters yesterday that owners of stolen handsets only have to report the phone's security code, or the international mobile electronic identification number, to either Globe Telecom Inc. or Smart Communications Inc. to have the phone signal blocked.

The scheme will apply to all cellular phone users and will cover all types of handsets.

The measure will take effect after the NTC and the service providers sign a formal memorandum of understanding. Rio said the signing was expected before Feb. 14.

"We are going to do something concrete about cell phone thefts. We already started with postpaid (plan subscribers), but it did not make much of a dent because 95 percent of cell phone users are on prepaid plans," Rio said.

Distinct code

Every handset, no matter what brand or model, has a security code that a user can access by pressing "*#06#" on the phone's keypad. A number unique to the handset automatically appears.

Rio encouraged mobile phone owners to take note of this number so they could have their phones blocked if these get stolen.

Rio said owners of stolen units need not file a report to all mobile phone operators. NTC has proposed a shared database be put up by all the service providers for this kind of information.'

But the owner must also submit to the mobile phone operators a copy of a police report, an affidavit of loss and a waiver proving the ownership of the stolen handset to prevent possible abuse of the scheme by individuals with other motives.

"Some people may use this to get back at their enemies. They only need to get hold of a cell phone's security code and they can have this phone blocked," he said.

As of Thursday last week, Rio said, cell phone giants Globe, Smart and their subsidiaries Isla Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. had already agreed to this arrangement, but some details still needed fine tuning.

Exploding cell chips

Now, if this scheme doesn't stop cell phone thieves, maybe this new discovery will.

The British weekly New Scientist reported that Michael Sailor and his colleagues at the University of California at San Diego had stumbled upon a way where a stolen cell phone could be crippled by frying its chips by remote control.

A small quantity of gadolinium nitrate, an oxidizing chemical, applied on a porous silicon wafer (which is used in computer chips) and detonated at will triggers a tiny blast that renders the device useless.

In a stolen mobile phone, the telephone network can send a trigger signal that will send a small electrical pulse to the part of the chip containing the gadolinium nitrate "detonator."

Only a tiny quantity of gadolinium nitrate is needed to do irreparable damage to the delicate transistors stored on a wafer. This way, it will be cheap and easy to add the chemical when the chips are being made, says Sailor.

"We have shown that you can store this stuff and detonate it at will," says Sailor.

The chemical can also be used to stop laptop thefts. ***With a report from AFP***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, January 29, 2002
3rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 S 6:12-15, 17-19
Gospel: Mk 3:31-35

Jesus mother and brothers came. As they stood outside, they sent someone to call him. The crowd sitting around Jesus told him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you."He replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"

And looking around at those who sat there he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does the will of God is brother and sister and mother to me."

Commentary

In Hebrew any relative is called "brother" or "sister." In the Old Testament we find more than five hundred examples where the word "brother" signifies a fairly close relationship. The Church never doubted that Mary was a virgin and that Jesus was her only son.

We all move in our lifetime from our own family toward the creation of another family, or community. The new family of Jesus has its foundation not in blood but in faith: "Whoever does the will of God is brother and sister and mother to me." People from all races, cultures and nations are invited to be part of the new family of God. When we commit ourselves to God's work, we discover new brothers and sisters and a mother, Mary, the one who believed "that God's promises would be fulfilled."

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missiona-ries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (BOUNCING CHECKS LAW)—*Batas Blg. 22,* Sec. 1 shows all that the Bouncing Checks Law punishes 2 distinct acts—An analysis of Sec. 1 shows that The Bouncing Checks Law penalizes 2 distinct acts: First, making of drawing and issuing any check to apply on account or for value, knowing at the time of issue that the drawer does not have sufficient funds in or credit with the drawee bank; and, second, having sufficient funds in or credit with the drawee bank shall fail to keep sufficient funds or to maintain a credit to cover the full amount of the check if presented within a period of ninety (90) days from the date appearing thereon, for which reason it is dishonored by the drawee bank. In the first paragraph, the drawer knows that he does not have sufficient funds to cover the check at the time of its issuance, while in the second paragraph, the drawer has sufficient funds at the time of issuance but fails to keep sufficient funds or maintain credit within 90 days from the date appearing on the check. In both instances, the offense is consummated by the dishonor of the check for insufficiency of funds or credit. The check involved in the first offense is worthless at the time of issuance since the drawer had neither sufficient funds in nor credit with the drawee bank at the time, while that involved in the second offense is good when issued as drawer had sufficient funds in or credit with the drawee bank when issued. Under the first offense, the 90 day presentment period is not expressly provided, while such period is an express element of the second offense. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Bellosillo, Second Division, Bautista v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 143375, July 6, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Gloria to ask Canada to extradite Pinoy fugitives

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will seek the extradition of three Filipino fugitives from Canada in her scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Jean Chretien today.

Press Secretary Noel Cabrera identified the wanted Filipinos as Dewey Dee, Rodolfo Pacificador and Caridad Cabalza.

Cabrera said Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, two of former national police chief Panfilo Lacson's most trusted lieutenants, were originally on the list of extraditees but were dropped because they are not facing criminal charges.

Aquino and Mancao have been implicated in various cases, including the abduction and murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, in November 2000.

They fled the country ahead of the investigation into the Dacer killing. It is believed they escaped to Canada via Hong Kong and the United States, although this has not been ascertained.

Their passports have been canceled by the Philippine government, however, hence they could be deported from Canada anytime since they no longer have valid travel documents.

Dee has been wanted in the Philippines since the 1970s after he allegedly ran away with P800 million in loans from local banks.

Pacificador, son of former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, is facing charges in the murder of anti-Marcos politician Evelio Javier in the 1980s. The elder Pacificador is currently standing trial for the Javier killing.

No information was immediately available on Cabalza.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to arrive in Ottawa today after her one-day visit to the United Kingdom.

In her departure speech Sunday evening, the President noted that the Philippines and Canada have forged a long and constructive relationship based on security, human rights, good governance, private enterprise and development, and social empowerment.

The President said she hopes to raise this relationship "to a new level of cooperation on security matters" during her two-day state visit to the North American country.

"In this vein, I will seek the extradition of Filipino fugitives who have sought refuge there," Ms Macapagal said.

In the US, the Philippines is working to extradite Charlie "Atong" Ang and Yolanda Ricaforte, alleged adviser and accountant, respectively, of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The two are wanted in connection with plunder charges filed against the ex-president.

Gordon wants Boracay slay solved quickly

By Jerome Aning

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon yesterday asked the police in Aklan to immediately apprehend the assailant of a 26-year-old Israeli tourist who was stabbed dead while strolling on the beach in Boracay before dawn Sunday.

Gordon, quoting a report from the DOT Region 6 office, said Raam Ben Shlomo was walking along Diwinid Beach with his girlfriend Liat Shani around 1 a.m. when the suspect approached Shlomo and stabbed him "without any provocation."

Shani tried to help her boyfriend but was also stabbed on the arm. She ran for help and came back with other people, who brought Shlomo to the island's hospital.

Shlomo, however, was pronounced dead on arrival.

Gordon said the couple were not robbed and that the assailant was a local. He said the police are looking for possible motives.

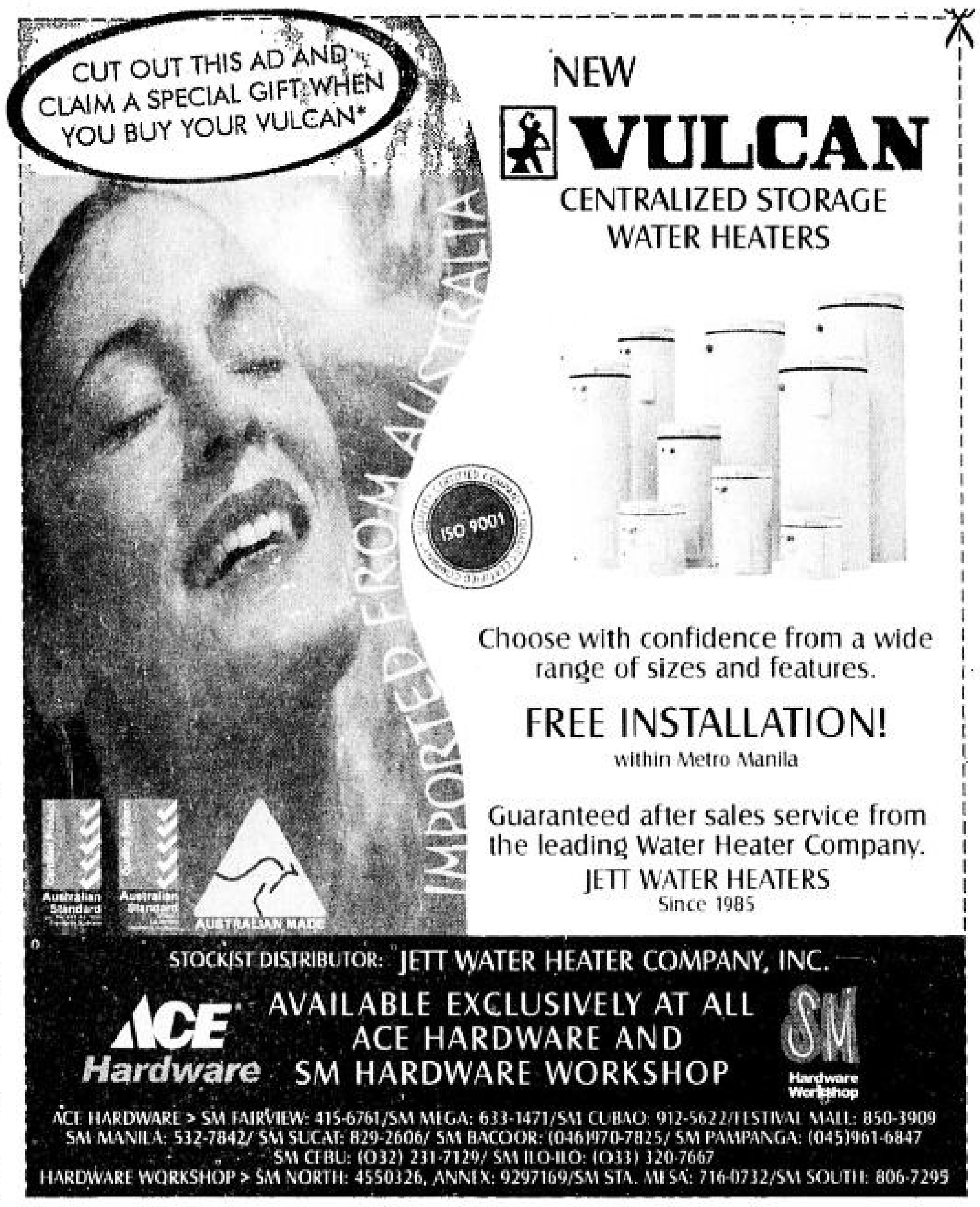
The DOT report did not indicate Shlomo's background. But it said he was booked at Sotero Cottage at Sitio Diniwid in the northern portion of the island, characterized by craggy cliffs and hilly portions.

Gordon told reporters that he first received news of the stabbing from the Israeli ambassador yesterday morning and quickly relayed the information to national police Director General Leandro Mendoza.

Gordon said the ambassador requested for a "very serious investigation" of the case. Representatives from the Israeli Embassy are accompanying the victim's body to Manila via Kalibo.

The tourism chief asked the police from Malay town, which has jurisdiction over the island, to "continue with its pro-active moves to prevent crimes in the island."

Gordon said Malay has a low crime rate and a high rate of crime solution efficiency. Only two murders were committed on Boracay last year, despite the huge inflow of tourists to the island.


CUT OUT THIS AD AND CLAIM A SPECIAL GIFT WHEN YOU BUY YOUR VULCAN*

IMPORTED FROM AUSTRALIA

NEW VULCAN
CENTRALIZED STORAGE WATER HEATERS

ISO 9001

Choose with confidence from a wide range of sizes and features.

FREE INSTALLATION!
within Metro Manila

Guaranteed after sales service from the leading Water Heater Company.
JETT WATER HEATERS
Since 1985

Australian Standard Australian Standard AUSTRALIAN MADE

STOCKIST DISTRIBUTOR: JETT WATER HEATER COMPANY, INC.

AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY AT ALL ACE HARDWARE AND SM HARDWARE WORKSHOP

ACE Hardware SM Hardware Workshop

ACE HARDWARE > SM FAIRVIEW: 415-6761/SM MEGA: 633-1471/SM CUBAO: 912-5622/FESTIVAL MALL: 850-3909
SM MANILA: 532-7842/ SM SUCAT: 829-2606/ SM BACOOR: (046)970-7825/ SM PAMPANGA: (045)961-6847
SM CEBU: (032) 231-7129/ SM ILO-ILO: (033) 320-7667
HARDWARE WORKSHOP > SM NORTH: 4550326, ANNEX: 9297169/SM STA. MESA: 716-0732/SM SOUTH: 806-7295

*Cut and present this ad when you buy your Vulcan at your nearest ACE HARDWARE or HARDWARE WORKSHOP to get your special gift.

Smart Buys

₱2,400.00

Tank fittings included

With Lavatory

Soap & Paper Holder

EUROTILES SUPERIOR CERAMIC TILES

NEW! STOCKHOLM SERIES
₱7.25 20 cm x 20 cm (8"x 8")
₱16.50 30 cm x 30 cm (12"x 12")
*METRO MANILA PRICE/PC

CERAMIC PLAZA
THE MOST TILES AT THE BEST PRICES

METRO MANILA BRANCHES

MANILA 1682 J. Abad Santos Ave. (Near Dynasty Tower) 253 2637 • 253 0590
QUEZON AVENUE 27 29 RIZON BLDG. (Near D. Tuazon St.) 731-1350
PASAY 811 EDSA Tels 833-6610 • 834-7537
SUCAT 8200 Dr. A Santos Ave. 825-5417
MUNTINLUPA Christ The King Bldg. (Near PEPSI Plant), Tunasan, Muntinlupa 861-1775
ANTIPOLO J & F Bldg., Masinag, Marcos Highway, Rizal 670 0032
VALENZUELA Unit 2 #213 McArthur Hi-way (Karuhatan) (Near SMC Warehouse). 291 5211

PROVINCIAL BRANCHES

DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE Km. 37 Aguinaldo Hi-way, Dasmariñas, Cavite (046)416-3743
CARMONA Bo. Maduya, National Highway, Carmona, Cavite (046)430-3227
MEYCAUAYAN JP Hermoso Bldg., McArthur Hi-way, Bo. Banga (044)840-0348
BALIUAG DRT Hi-way, (044)673-3695 (044)673-0445
GUIGUINTO Unit EDE Cundangan Bldg., Tuktukan (044)690-6606
ANGELES Sta. Teresa Bldg 033 Henson St. (045)887-4011
TARLAC San Sebastian, McArthur Hi-way (045)900 0212

EXTENDED STORE HOURS! 8:30 AM TO 7:30 PM DAILY
ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS in front of SM Southmall Lot 7, Alabang Zapote Rd. Brgy. Almanza Las Piñas City Tels 801-7152 800-7131 • 800-7132 • 800-7134
E. RODRIGUEZ 113 E. Rodriguez Ave., (Near G. Araneta Ave.) Quezon City Tel. 732 1905
MUÑOZ 1207 EDSA, Quezon City Tels. 372-4687 • 372-1593 372-9010 • 372-9011

CERAMIC PLAZA at Federal HARDWARE BUILDER'S CENTER
*OPEN 8:30AM to 7:30PM DAILY

*FEDERAL HARDWARE-MAKATI 2250 Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo), Makati City Tels. 893-1854
*FEDERAL HARDWARE-CAINTA No. 9 Imelda Ave (Near MAKRO), Cainta, Rizal • Tel. 678-1038
*FEDERAL HARDWARE-TAYTAY Manila East Road (Near Max's), Kaytikling, Taytay, Rizal Tels. 304-2205 • 665-3442
FEDERAL HARDWARE-BACOOR, CAVITE Annex A Tropical Hut Bldg., Bacoor, Cavite Tel. (046) 870 2598
FEDERAL HARDWARE-IMUS, CAVITE 379 NK Aguinaldo Highway (Near Robinsons), Anabu I- C Imus, Cavite Tel. (046) 875-4840
FEDERAL HARDWARE-ANGELES 509 & 571 McArthur Highway, Sto. Domingo, Angeles City Tel. (045) 888-4166

SLIMMERS WORLD

HOTLINE: 887-3533

FAT LOSS.

PAY ONLY P37 PER VISIT on full programmes

SAVE up to P22,500

NO JOINING FEES! NO MONTHLY DUES!
NO CREDIT CARDS NECESSARY.
FIRST 50 IN JANUARY.

13 CENTERS & 23 YEARS in the PHILIPPINES. 1,500 AFFILIATES WORLDWIDE.

SPA TREATMENTS

Gain 10 lbs. of muscle.

Dance the fat away.

Body Former. Lose 1,000 calories while you relax.

Milk Bath for smooth, white skin.

CALL US:

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.slimmersworld.com.ph or EMAIL US: inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG	BINONDO	CALOOCAN	CEBU	GREENHILLS	LEGASPI VILL.	MALATE	SM MEGAMALL	PASAY ROAD	PASIG	SALCEDO VILL.	SM NORTH	SUBIC
Karen	Herlie	Sherry	Em-em	Cha/Abie	Ruth	Grace/Tin	Michelle	Camille	Lorie	Sheila	Aileen	Ruza
2nd Flr. RCBC Bldg.	3/F Regina Garden II	6/F Panorama Bldg., Rizal Ave.	Basement 1&2 Ayala Center	27/F Atlanta Ctr. #31 Annapolis	G/F Zeta Bldg. Salcedo St.	6/F Pan Pacific Hotel, Adriatico St.	2/F Bldg. A Mandaluyong	1032 Arnaiz Avenue, cor. EDSA	Restaurant Ave. Marcos Hi-way	27/F Trafalgar Dela Costa St.	2/F Annex Bldg. Quezon City	2/F Times Square Rizal Hi-way
809-0396	242-1312	365-7654	231-3254	726-6505	893-8934	536-0619	631-3869	887-1336	681-5333	814-0138	929-5429	252-6514

AFP: RP-US war games postponed

From page A1

Quevedo noted that the Armed Forces of the Philippines needed help in dealing with the bandit group, which is still holding hostage Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse, Deborah Yap.

He said that regardless of the questions raised regarding the constitutionality of the joint military exercise dubbed "Balikatan 02-1," the people living in areas terrorized by the Abu Sayyaf appreciated the help being extended by the United States.

He said the CBCP discussed the Balikatan issue at the 84th plenary assembly of bishops in Tagaytay City, which started Saturday and ended yesterday.

He said the people's views on the matter were aired at the recent Mindanao-Sulu Pastoral Conference, in which some 250 members of the laity and at least 20 bishops from Mindanao took part.

Concerns

But Quevedo raised concerns about the possible abuses that the foreign troops could commit while in the Philippines.

He said the CBCP would send a communiqué to Malacañang seeking assurance that the US troops would pursue only the agenda of the Philippine government—the eradication of the Abu Sayyaf.

He stressed that there should be no indiscriminate firing at civilians, and that military operations should be directed only against the Abu Sayyaf and not against any religion or group.

"It's like having doctors there. They are there to observe. They should not go into combat," Quevedo said, echoing the Philippine government's declaration that the American forces were here only to train the Philippine military.

As many as 660 American soldiers, including members of the US Special Forces, are to take part in Balikatan.

Unlike earlier joint military exercises, this year's Balikatan will find American soldiers in a combat zone—in this case, Basilan—where they will be allowed to use their firearms when attacked.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. earlier publicly opposed the Balikatan on grounds of constitutionality, but the Department of Justice has since issued the opinion that President Macapagal-Arroyo could approve the military exercise.

But militant groups continue to protest it, claiming that it violated the Constitution and was not covered by the RP-US Visiting Force Agreement. The coalition Peace Camp said Sunday that it would take the matter to the Supreme Court.

Orgy

Quevedo noted, however, that "months and months of military operations have not ended the kidnapping orgy of the Abu Sayyaf."

"We had hoped that our own forces would be able to take care of that," he said. "They have made many promises that this agony would end. That has not been forthcoming, and it has added to the anguish of the people."

The military had constantly said the rescue of the Abu Sayyaf hostages was only a matter of time. The latest deadline it had set for itself was before Christmas.

The Americans—Martin and Gracia Burnham—have been held hostage since May 27.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan admitted early this month that the military needed help in going after the Abu Sayyaf.

In a radio interview yesterday, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the terms of reference of the Balikatan would be submitted to the Senate "sometime this week."

"Categorically, we're saying that the exercise will be over in six months," Golez said over radio station dzMM. "It won't be extended."

He said the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States had "really changed the international environment with respect to security."

"There are (many) things possible now that were not three or four years ago," he said. "Now, because of Sept.11, terrorism has become international in character, and the response to it must also be international."

Welcome

In Bacolod City, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel told reporters that American troops should be welcomed in Mindanao provided they did not take part in combat operations.

He said that unlike in Manila, the people in Mindanao were happy with the US military presence.

Pimentel, who hails from Mindanao, had initially expressed reservations over the matter. He amended his views after a meeting last week with the President and other administration officials.

"We have to remember that we were the ones who invited the Americans to help train Filipino soldiers, upgrade their equipment and share in intelligence gathering," said the senator.

He was in Negros Occidental to attend the wake of his friend Titus Jalandoni in Silay City.

In a separate interview, Sen. Loren Legarda said the joint military exercise should be monitored to ensure that the US troops "will not fight shoulder to shoulder with our Filipino soldiers."

"We must fight our known internal battles, and (the President) assured us that that would be the case," Legarda said. "But we have to make sure that this policy decision will be implemented on the ground."

Legarda also said the US military presence in Mindanao came at a time when the Philippines was engaged in the global war against international terrorism and seemed helpless in rescuing the Abu Sayyaf hostages.

"It is, therefore, timely that they are here," she said.

However, she said, "many questions come to our mind: If more Americans are kidnapped, will the US interfere?"

Surprise

Legarda said that while she was for crushing the Abu Sayyaf, she, too, was surprised at the government's decision to allow the joint military exercise to be held in a combat zone and with the use of live ammunition.

"In short, we don't want to be kept in the dark as to the real intention and the real duration and terms of reference of the stay of the American troops," she said, adding:

"We are not against the Americans. We are just against what could be a violation of the Constitution and an attempt to keep things away from the Filipino people."

Legarda also issued the reminder that while she was with the majority party in the Senate, she voted against the ratification of the VFA in 1999 because, she said, there were too many broad provisions in the treaty where American troops could operate without clear terms of reference.

Protection

In Zamboanga City, Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the AFP Southern Command, said elaborate steps were being taken to protect the US troops amid concerns that they could be killed or abducted by the Abu Sayyaf.

"We are taking all actions and counter-measures to prevent such incidents," he said.

Cimatu also said US troops were "prepared for this risk," but that "counter-measures on the possibility of some terrorist activities that can be made here" were being undertaken.

Up to 70 US military "trainers" have arrived in Zamboanga City to set up a communications and logistics center for the six-month exercise.

Washington considers the deployment to the Philippines as an expansion of its global campaign against the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden and his allies.

"In a guerrilla environment there is no such thing as a frontline," Cimatu said. "They (Abu Sayyaf) can probably hit you on the back, on the side, but we have taken measures to prevent as much as possible the chance of any untoward incident against the American soldiers."

US troops will be allowed to fire back if attacked because "retaliation is a defense mechanism" covered by the military's rules of engagement.

Army and police personnel armed with assault rifles were seen at key installations yesterday, and officials say roving roadblocks were also introduced to check movements of possible terror suspects. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; AFP***

US warned Basilan operation a perilous game

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Hunting Abu Sayyaf bandits on the hostile island-province of Basilan could be a perilous game for US troops unfamiliar with its terrain.

The name Basilan—literally "the iron trail"—evokes foreign military expeditions through the centuries that have come to grief there.

US troops are massing in this port city for the coming war games in nearby Basilan that could eventually bring them in conflict with the Abu Sayyaf bandits and a potentially hostile Muslim population of about 335,000.

The Abu Sayyaf bandits, which have kidnapped foreigners and beheaded some of them, are believed allied to Osama bin Laden, the main suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States

"Without using air attacks like they did on Afghanistan and if they use only infantry, they would be crushed, massacred in the jungle," said Prof. Samsullah Adju, a former chancellor of the Mindanao State University.

About 5,000 Filipino soldiers deployed in Basilan in the past nine months have failed to crush the Abu Sayyaf and rescue an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse, the remnants of a kidnapping spree last year by the group.

Volcanic hills run across the back of Basilan, carpeted by rolling tropical jungles so dense that soldiers say they hardly see a shaft of light during daytime.

Up to 600 US troops are to join the joint military exercise. The American contingent includes some 160 Special Forces who would act as armed advisers and fire back if attacked.

"Assuming the US can wipe out the Abu Sayyaf, the relief would be temporary because the relatives of the bandits and all those who might have been victimized will continue to fight," said Dumarpa Faysah, an assemblyman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao that covers Basilan.

Fielding US troops in Basilan could also inadvertently "trigger a bigger war" should they encroach on spheres of influence of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the main separatist group which has opened talks and signed a truce with Manila.

Muslim sultans from Borneo settled in Basilan and spread Islam in Mindanao in the 14th century. Spanish forces arrived about 300 years later but failed to Christianize Basilan. A company of Spanish soldiers was massacred in one battle.

The province is ringed by about 60 smaller islands, long used by pirates to waylay vessels and sack Christian communities across the Basilan Strait.

When Spain ceded the Philippines to the United States in 1898, American troops were deployed in the southern frontier to control Muslim dominated provinces.

"Many of them were killed," Adju said.

The US troops were often baffled by Moro fanatics called "juramentados" who wielded machetes and made suicidal charges through the enemy frontlines.

"They dodged bullets and the .45 cal. automatic, according to the story, was devised to stop them in their tracks," Adju said.

"These natives, including those in the Abu Sayyaf are the ancestors of the Basilenos now," he said.

"Muslims here like to fight America, which to them is a classic oppressor."

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes earlier said the US contingent was prepared to suffer casualties.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, however, said the US troops would only be in the background although they would be allowed to fire back if attacked. ***AFP***

US Embassy . . .

From page A1

White House or President Bush. (But) Michael Malinowski, then charge d'affaires of the US Embassy here, (often went) straight to Romulo," one source said.

Protocol dictates that foreign embassies course their requests through the DFA, which then provides Malacañang with "informed decisions" relating to foreign policies.

In August last year, the source recounted, Malinowski allegedly requested the DFA to act on a matter which would have caused it to "deviate" from the agreed policy on military visits and exercises.

One case involved a fighter jet that had landed in the former Clark Air Base for refueling that month, the source said. The pilot sought a clearance from the defense department to conduct flight training, deviating from its original plan. At the time, ship visits and flight exercises were restricted and allowed only in designated areas.

Elmer Cato, then executive director of the Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFACom), advised the pilot to contact the US Embassy so American officials could secure a clearance for the exercise.

But Col. Russel Lewey, defense attaché at the embassy, told Cato the plane already had secured clearance from the government.

"When Cato put his foot down and explained to Lewey that the diplomatic clearance given to the pilot was only for refueling, the US Embassy went straight to Romulo. Upon the meddling of Romulo, the US fighter jet was allowed to do the flying exercises," one of the sources said.

Later that month, another source said, the US Embassy got irked after the VFACom noted the violations being made by American troops participating in the military exercise Balanced Piston.

Malinowski reportedly belittled DFA officials and complained to Romulo that Guingona and VFACom officials were allegedly "giving the United States a hard time." The source said the US military aircraft were conducting flight training exercises without Filipino pilots on board, as required under the VFA.

"The US Embassy insisted that they are allowed unilaterally but under the VFA and as underscored by the VFACom, the training exercises must be bilateral. Any US aircraft conducting a flight exercise over Philippine territory must be accompanied by a Filipino pilot. The exercise must be bilateral," the source said.

Malinowski insisted that the exercise was unilateral, the source added, and allegedly berated Cato for taking note of the violations committed by the United States. "Don't f__k with me, you jackass!" the source quoted Malinowski as having told Cato.

The Inquirer tried to reach Cato for comment, but he was reportedly out of town. The paper also tried to get a responsible US Embassy official on record, but was not able to do so despite repeated attempts.

Guingona was supposed to file a diplomatic protest, but he was beaten to the draw by Malinowski, who went straight to Romulo and demanded Cato's ouster.

"Without getting the real story, Secretary Romulo issued a memorandum to Guingona to investigate Cato for stopping the flight exercises. Cato was not preventing the United States from doing the flight exercise. He merely wanted the United States to observe protocol and remind them of the existing policies with regard to clearances involving military exercises under the VFA," one source said. "Cato was berated by Malinowski for doing his job. Romulo, instead of commending Cato, even had the latter investigated," he said.

In the memorandum, Romulo said Malinowski was "quite perturbed" by the actions of Cato and demanded that Cato be placed under investigation.

Malinowski, the source said, also allegedly asked Romulo—instead of Guingona—to make President Macapagal-Arroyo sign approvals of military exercises.

Prior to that incident, Malinowski had already made a case against Cato's presence at the VFACom.

In June last year, he complained to Romulo about the leak to the media of a story regarding five US Navy sailors who had been attacked by the New People's Army upon their return from Mt. Pinatubo.

Lt. Senior Grade Scott Washburn of the USS Mount Rushmore went missing following the NPA attack.

"The VFACom's position then was to impose a news blackout because the attack happened about a week after the kidnapping of foreigners in Dos Palmas and the government did not want the foreign tourists and businessmen to be alarmed. But Malinowski suspected Cato of leaking the story when the one who (actually) leaked was a police general who even provided the media with the names of the US Navy personnel," the source said.

Cato was eventually replaced as VFACom executive director and assigned as DFA regional officer based in Pampanga. The VFACom is now headed by Ambassador Jaime Yambao.

Going to SC 'premature and unwise,' says Salonga

From page A1

In the case of Mora v. Robert McNamara (1967), involving a direct challenge to the constitutionality of the Vietnam War, the US Supreme Court, for reasons of prudence, refused to be involved in a case, which it said seemed to be "inappropriate for judicial involvement."

JV Bautista, head of the PeaceCamp legal team, said his group would file a petition with the Supreme Court this week.

Peace Camp said there was no provision in the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) that justified the presence of American troops in the country because the agreement covered only "the conduct of US forces while engaged in military exercises."

The group also noted that the VFA was not a treaty because only the Philippine Senate ratified it. The US Senate did not ratify it.

Lawyer Marie Yuvienco said she would urge the Supreme Court to reconsider an earlier decision declaring the VFA valid.

Yuvienco, acting on behalf of several militant groups, said she would point out unconstitutionally vague sections related to the planned exercises.

PeaceCamp said the Macapagal administration was trying to justify the presence of foreign troops in Mindanao through the MSLA.

Argee Guevarra, a member of the PeaceCamp legal team, said the MLSA itself was questionable because the administration wanted to make it a mere "arrangement" requiring only the approval of the Armed Forces chief of staff and his counterpart, the commander in chief of the Pacific Command.

Base

In the Senate, Sen. Gregorio Honasan said Washington wanted to establish new base operations in the country to fight international terrorism under the US-proposed draft of the MLSA.

Honasan urged Ms Macapagal to expand the Cabinet panel tasked with reviewing the draft MLSA by including members of Congress and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

He said provisions of the draft MLSA, including one that seeks to allow the American troops to construct base operations in the country, were sure to create another wave of controversy.

Under the draft MLSA, reciprocal logistic support between American and Filipino troops shall be "automatically" renewed after 10 years.

This controversial provision may be the reason why the President is hesitant to submit the MLSA to Congress for review, according to Honasan.

The President had earlier ordered a review of the US draft of the MLSA by a Cabinet committee composed of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

In last week's joint public hearing by the Senate committees on foreign relations and on national defense and security, Perez said that the Philippines was still drafting its own version of the MLSA.

In the House of Representatives, the committee on foreign affairs and the oversight committee for the VFA asked defense and military officials to explain the parameters of the joint military exercises.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr., head of both committees, said the officials should explain the bounds and duration of the Balikatan joint exercises considering a Western diplomat's claim that the exercises could extend beyond six months.

Divisive

"The ongoing war game has caused divisiveness among the Filipino people so there is an urgent need to clear the issue once and for all," said Lozada, member of the ruling party Lakas-NUCD and of the National Security Council.

For his part, Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla, the House minority leader, said the Balikatan was a clear violation of the Constitution, which bans foreign troops and bases in the country without a treaty.

"Balikatan 02-1 is a military operation intended primarily to rescue the hostages held by the Abu Sayyaf but under the guise of a military exercise," Padilla said.

He said the Macapagal administration was covering-up the real purpose, which is to rescue the American hostages.

Outside Congress, protests against the war exercises continue.

Sanlakas Youth members threw "paint bombs" yesterday at the US Embassy in Manila to express their disapproval of the deployment of American troops in Mindanao.

"The way it is being explained now, the Balikatan has raised more suspicions rather than gain public acceptance," said Michelle Licudine, Sanlakas Youth spokesperson.

Ms Macapagal on Sunday said only a few people were against the war exercises.

Salonga conceded that Filipinos favored US troops in combat areas in Mindanao due to the lack of sufficient public information.

He said this was also partly due to public sympathy for the Abu Sayyaf hostages—Americans Gracia and Martin Burnham and Filipina nurse Deborah Yap—and to exasperation with the military.

"But even if the critics win in the Supreme Court, who will enforce its judgment against the US forces?" Salonga asked.

"The US did not follow the decision of the International Court of Justice in the 1986 case won by Nicaragua against the United States. In that case, the US acted like a bully and was condemned by many countries," the former Senate President said.

He said it was unlikely for military subordinates of US President George W. Bush to follow an adverse decision of the Philippine Supreme Court.

Court of public opinion

Salonga said that it might be better to settle the matter in the "court of public opinion."

"In the event of abuses and excesses on the part of US soldiers, our people will demand that erring defendants be held answerable to our courts for such cases as rape, murder, physical injuries and similar crimes against Filipinos," he said.

But the VFA provides that US military shall have the right to exercise within the Philippines "all criminal and disciplinary jurisdiction conferred on them by the military law of the US over US personnel in the Philippines."

All the US military commander has to do is to issue an "official duty" certificate, which will exempt erring US soldiers from the jurisdiction of Philippine courts, according to Salonga.

But as in the Vietnam War, "the time will come when this military adventure will be so unpopular there will be no way for the Americans and our own officials to defy the judgment of our people," he said. ***With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Juliet L. Javellana, Philip Tubeza, Gerald G. Lacuarta and AP***

Gracia's sis arrives in Zambo to appeal for Burnhams' release

From page A1

"I would like to make a personal appeal to the Abu Sayyaf to please not harm Martin and Gracia and to work with the Filipino government and the New Tribes Mission to resolve the situation and to secure the release of Gracia and Martin so that they can come home to their children and family," Jones said.

No money

"We have no money for ransom," Jones said at the small radio office. "We are not a threat to anyone. Harming them will not solve anything and only deprive their children..."

The Abu Sayyaf, which has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, kidnapped Martin and Gracia Burnham on May 27 last year along with Guillermo Sobero of Corona, California, and 17 Filipinos from a beach resort.

The bandits beheaded Sobero last June, along with some of the other hostages. The rest escaped or were released, reportedly after paying ransom.

About 100 US soldiers already are in Zamboanga and more than 500 others are expected in the next two weeks to train Filipino soldiers to fight the Abu Sayyaf and rescue the Burnhams.

About 160 US Special Forces are to travel to Basilan and could enter combat zones to observe the Filipino troops. The Americans will be armed and allowed to defend themselves.

War exercises start

Military officials said that more US troops would arrive in Zamboanga on Monday and that the training exercises would officially start Wednesday with a formal ceremony.

Jones, an Ohio teacher, said the Burnhams and her family could not fully understand why Martin and Gracia were kidnapped.

"It's very difficult for us to understand how something like this (could) happen to Martin and Gracia," she said.

"Martin and Gracia have never hurt anyone. They are missionaries and have lived good lives and lived for many years in the Philippines trying to help the Filipino people. Martin and Gracia love the Filipino people. They are both very kind and generous."

Simple lives

"They live very simple lives, and they care for their children and helped the Filipino people," Jones said.

On the streets of Zamboanga, dozens of curious onlookers gathered around the radio station, listening to Jones' broadcast via loudspeakers.

The broadcast also reached the jungles and remote villages of Basilan, about 20 km away, where the Burnhams are being held.

Jones also referred to a videotaped interview of the couple made last December.

"We see how tired and weak they are and we are very afraid of what might happen to them," Jones said.

"Our family and their children need them very much and, Martin and Gracia, if you can hear me, we love you very much, and we're doing everything we can," she said.

The US Embassy said Jones was visiting the Philippines to gain a better understanding of the local situation involving her family members, and to express her family's great concern over the Burnhams' ordeal.

Valentine's in Manila

Jones returned to Manila after making the appeal and briefly meeting with Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southern Command chief.

She will be meeting other officials of the government and the US Embassy.

Cimatu said the Jones couple visited Zamboanga to "express their gratitude to the Filipino people especially to the families of those who died in the course of the rescue operation."

Col. Renato Miranda, commander of the 2nd Marine Brigade, said the Burnham couple could be released before Feb. 14.

"In 10 days from now. I don't intend to spend my Valentine's Day in Basilan, it will be in Manila, with the Burnhams," Miranda said. ***With a report from AP***

Now, Rosebud wants Perez axed

By Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

AFTER calling recently for the resignation of Interior Secretary Joey Lina, Mary "Rosebud" Ong asked President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday to sack Justice Secretary Hernando Perez for dropping three witnesses against Sen. Panfilo Lacson from the government witness protection program.

Ong said the latest witness against Lacson to be dropped from the protection program was PO1 Jonathan Morales of the Philippine National Police Narcotics Group intelligence division.

He was eased out of the program on Jan. 3 even before he had a chance to testify at the Senate inquiry looking into the charges against Lacson, said Ong, who is herself enrolled in the program.

Morales, alias Agent Morris, was to testify that he had worked for Lacson in the illegal drugs trade when Lacson was PNP chief, Ong told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The policeman was the third witness to be booted out of the witness protection program, she said.

Rebecca Agana, a former Narcotics Group detainee, and Angelo "Ador" Mawanay, an alleged ex-civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, were earlier dropped from the program, Ong said.

Agana had corroborated before the Senate inquiry the allegations made by Ong that PNP officers had used drug offenders as drug couriers. Mawanay had implicated Lacson in many high crimes.

Morales, Agana and Mawanay were among the eight witnesses against Lacson who were placed in the witness protection program.

Ong said she fears she and the remaining witnesses might soon be dropped from the program, adding that "drug money has already reached the justice system."

Morales will hold a press conference this afternoon in Pasig City, Ong said.

Yesterday, Secretary Lina laughed off the calls for his resignation made by Ong, as he vehemently denied her allegation he had publicly commended a policeman facing a string of charges in court.

"Why should I (dignify) her accusation? There's no basis for it," Lina said in a phone interview.

Lina said he praised Senior Insp. Cesar Aquino in his TV show "Dial 117" for his participation in a drug raid in Lipa City last year that led to the seizure of 1,000 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

The show, which Lina co-hosts with TV personality Cory Quirino, airs over government-owned National Broadcasting Network every Friday night.

"I never commended (Aquino). I don't even know the guy," Lina said. "If he was indeed part of the raid, why should I not commend him? But the point is I never publicly commended him."

Lina said Ong might have been referring to the segment in the program where Aquino was interviewed. Lina said he would order a review of the tape to put the issue to rest.

"Ong might have misinterpreted the program. She should watch the tape again," Lina said through his spokesperson.

Ong, a former civilian narcotics agent who has accused ex-national police chief turned-Sen. Panfilo Lacson of involvement in a string of crimes, said Lina should be sacked for publicly commending Aquino.

"How could he commend the policeman I charged with protecting the drug trade, including the smuggling of drugs through Sariaya (Quezon)? It is adding insult to injury," Ong told a press conference Saturday.

ONG

Claimants ask Gloria to rein in PCGG on $30M

By Donna S. Cueto

LAWYERS of the rights abuse victims who had obtained a $2 billion judgment against the Marcos estate have appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop the Presidential Commission on Good Government from opposing their claim on the $30 million Arelma account.

Lawyer Rod Domingo Jr., co-counsel of the rights victims, said the PCGG had become the main stumbling block to his clients getting the $30 million Arelma funds.

Arelma Inc. is believed to be one of the foreign-registered dummy foundations set up by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos to hide allegedly ill-gotten wealth.

The PCGG has opposed the rights victims' claim to the funds in the United States courts.

"The Republic and PCGG have spent at least US$1 million and will spend much more to prevent the victims from getting this money," Domingo and another co-counsel Ruben Fruto, said in a Jan. 14 letter to the President.

Lead counsel Robert Swift also hit PCGG chair Haydee Yorac for proposing legislation to give human rights victims $200 million and at the same time "spend hundreds of thousands of dollars" to block their claim on the $30 million.

"What game are you playing?" Swift asked Yorac.

Swift said the legislation proposed by the PCGG violated the Sandiganbayan decision of July 27, 1999 that ruled that the funds recovered by the government could not be used to pay for the victims' compensation.

The Sandiganbayan decision said that the funds for compensation to the victims should be taken from the Marcoses' private funds, and not from whatever the government can recover.

Yorac has said that the PCGG cannot give up its claim on the Arelma accounts because this was part of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth that the PCGG was mandated to recover.

In the rights victims' class suit, all the plaintiffs' lawyers had to prove was that any wealth they could find was Marcos money. For the Philippine government, however, evidence is required that the money was not only Marcos money but that it was also ill-gotten.

Cops blow up defiant Japanese passenger's box

AIRPORT police yesterday detained a Japanese man and detonated his hand luggage after he refused to submit the box to customs officials for inspection, the Manila airport manager said.

The suspect box, which bore US Federal Reserve stamps, was confiscated from Hirohito Inoue, 41, as he attempted to board a Japanese Airlines flight to Tokyo, general manager Edgardo Manda said.

The sealed package aroused suspicion "when the X-ray machine turned up an unidentified black mass," Manda said.

The passenger then refused to have the package opened on request, insisting it contained some form of antiques.

Manda said police were interrogating the passenger and had not decided whether to file charges against him.

"He cannot refuse (a request for inspection) because this is part of the security guidelines and security measures that we are enforcing," Manda said.

The official said it was standard operating procedure to have suspicious packages safely detonated as a precaution.

Police did not say what they found in the destroyed package. *AFP*

Erratum

DUE to an inadvertence, a filler material on the Commission on Elections' continuing registration of voters was used in yesterday's issue. The registration ended on Dec. 31, 2001. We regret the error.—Ed.

FOR ALL YOUR COVERING NEEDS OF ANY TYPE, SHAPE AND SIZE- AWNINGS AND CANOPIES, GARDEN/PARTY TENTS, CAR TENTS, CAMPING TENTS AND PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT.

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES.

tenthaus
WHERE QUALITY IS AT ITS BEST

- FOR FAST, RELIABLE, DEPENDABLE SERVICE.
- TRIED AND TESTED FOR THE PAST 28 YEARS.

ALSO AVAILABLE PARTY TENTS FOR RENT
CREDIT CARDS HONORED

SAVE THE ECONOMY! BUY PILIPINO

Main Office : 2/F VILLAFUERTE 111 BLDG.
279 ALABANG-ZAPOTE RD. (FRONTING EVER-GOTESCO) • TEL: 872-3788 • 872-9067

BRANCHES :
#27 KAMIAS • TEL: 922-0432
#1140 PASONG TAMO • TEL: 895-5484

FAX: 872-2332 • E-MAIL: tenthaus@info.com

An offer like no other. Never before!

STRETCHED UP TO 48 MONTHS % INTEREST

Nissan's
LIGHTER MOVES

Call it a well-deserved reward or an exciting motivation. This season, give yourself a Nissan car. More than ever, it's easier to own one. With unbelievably stretched zero % interest, low downpayment schemes, and zero interest plans. You can get a luxurious Cefiro, a fully-loaded Exalta, and other innovative Nissan cars. For yourself or for your family. Hurry to your Nissan dealer, attractive packages await cash buyers!

• STRETCHED ZERO INTEREST 48 MONTHS, 20% DOWNPAYMENT

MODEL	SRP	Amount Financed		Monthly Installments			Comparison	
		0% INTEREST (25% of the amount financed)	REGULAR (75% of the amount financed)	0% INTEREST	REGULAR	TOTAL (A)	100% REGULAR (B)	SAVINGS (difference of A & B x 48 Mos.)
Cefiro Elite	P 1,310,000	P 262,000	P 786,000	P 5,458	P 22,680	**P 28,138**	P 30,240	P 100,896
Exalta 1.5MT	P 688,000	P 137,600	P 412,800	P 2,867	P 11,911	**P 14,778**	P 15,882	P 52,992
Verita	P 698,000	P 139,600	P 418,800	P 2,908	P 12,084	**P 14,992**	P 16,113	P 53,808

Note: Stretched zero interest plan is also available for 24 & 36 months & other passenger car models of NMPI.

• LOW DOWNPAYMENT SCHEME

MODEL	SRP	DOWN PAYMENT	60 Mos.	48 Mos.	36 Mos.
Exalta 1.5MT	P 688,000	P 88,600	P 13,853	P 16,144	P 20,027
Verita	P 698,000	P 90,600	P 14,054	P 16,379	P 20,318

Note: 18 to 24 months terms also available
Low downpayment plan is also available
for other passenger car models of NMPI

• ZERO INTEREST FINANCING SCHEME (12 MONTHS TERM)
(50% downpayment based on SRP)

MODEL	SRP	Monthly Installment
Cefiro Elite	P 1,310,000	P 54,584
Exalta 1.5MT	P 688,000	P 28,667
Verita	P 698,000	P 29,084

Note: Zero interest plan is also available for other passenger car models of NMPI
Monthly installment is computed on 50% amount financed

Offer good until January 31, 2002.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0007, Series of 2002.

METRO MANILA:
NISSAN ALABANG
361 Alabang-Zapote Road, Talon 1,
Las Piñas City
Tel Nos 873-2845, 873-2771, 873-2770, 873-2860
NISSAN CENTRAL MANILA
2210 J. Abad Santos Ave cor Batangas, Tondo, Manila
Tel Nos. 251-9063, 252-3566, 251-9054,
251-9056
NISSAN COMMONWEALTH
41 Commonwealth Avenue, Brgy. Holy Spirit,
Quezon City 1121
Tel Nos 932-0478, 932-4001
NISSAN GALLERY ORTIGAS
Ortigas Ave corner C-5 1110 Libis, Quezon City
Tel Nos 438-4539 to 40, 633-2545 to 47,
635-5868, 634-8754
NISSAN GALLERY QUEZON AVENUE
138 Quezon Ave (near cor Araneta Ave) Quezon City
Tel. Nos 731-5308, 711-6486, 711-6485
NISSAN NORTH EDSA (Balintawak)
1174 EDSA Balintawak, Quezon City
Tel Nos: 330-5331 to 50, 455-8974 to 79,
362-1731, 455-8983
BROADWAY MOTOR SALES CORP.
1222 United Nations Ave., Paco, Manila
Tel Nos 400-1020, 400-2177, 400-1522,
525-9064 loc 126
CORE AUTOMOTIVE RESOURCES (CAR), Inc.
2232 Anthony P. Lee Centre, Pasong Tamo Avenue,
Makati City
Tel Nos. 818-9464, 892-6242, 893-9221,
8100151 to 55 local 315
MANTRADE DEV'T. CORP.
2278 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City
Tel Nos. 843-3316 to 23, 812-7701, 812-7743,
843-8011

LUZON:
NISSAN NAGA
39 Concepcion Grande, Naga City
Tel Nos (054) 472-3577 to 79
NISSAN PAMPANGA
Freluz Bldg Olongapo-Gapan Road,
Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel Nos. (045) 961-5461 to 62, 961-5481,
860-2164 to 65
NISSAN SOUTHWOODS
Carmona Toll Plaza, South Luzon Expressway,
Carmona, Cavite, Calabarzon
Tel Nos. (046) 430-1681 to 84, 430-1604,
(02) 845-1686
ROYCE MOTOR CENTER
Km 112 Maharlika Highway,
Cabanatuan City Tel. Nos. (044) 463-7210 to 12,
463-3358
(SANTIAGO CITY)
Maharlika Highway, Mabini, Santiago City
Tel Nos (044) 687-6707
(BULACAN)
DRT Highway, Baliuag, Bulacan
Tel No (044) 673-0225
(PAMPANGA)
McArthur Highway, Dolores
San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel Nos (045) 961-7773 to 74
WORLD CARS
Km 48 DRTR Highway, Baliuag, Bulacan
Tel Nos (044) 766-0919, 766-2425, 766-2486
CABANATUAN
114 Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City
Tel Nos (044) 463-0089, 463-7279
(ISABELA)
Km 335 Batal, Santiago, Isabela
Tel. No (078) 682-8850
XENTREX AUTOMOTIVE
National Highway, Mayombo District,
2400 Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tel. Nos.: (075) 522-0656, 522-0525

VISAYAS:
NISSAN BACOLOD
Araneta St., Singcang, Bacolod City
Tel Nos (034) 435-1102, 434-8051 to 52
NISSAN CEBU DIST.
M.L. Quezon Avenue, Maguikay,
Mandaue City, Cebu
Tel Nos. (032) 320-4051 to 53, 329-7193,
320-8359
NISSAN ILOILO (S & J Motors)
E. Lopez St., Jaro, 5000 Iloilo City
Tel Nos (033) 320-4051 to 53, 329-7192 to 93,
320-8359

MINDANAO:
NISSAN CAGAYAN DE ORO
Elpe Para, Kauswagan Road, Carmen,
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel Nos (08822) 728-788, 725-482,
(088) 858-3000, 858-3002
(BUTUAN)
J.C. Aquino Ave., Butuan City
Tel Nos (085) 815-3164, 342-7210
DAVAO UNICAR CORP.
J.P. Laurel Ave cor., F. Torres St., Davao City
Tel Nos (082) 221-1918, 227-6712, 221-1914
to 17, 227-0310 to 11
(GENERAL SANTOS)
National Highway, General Santos City
Tel. No. (083) 552-3228

Nissan Motor Philippines Inc.
NISSAN
Life Together.

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL Founding Chairman

INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 52
ISSN
0116-2642

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
■ Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
■ P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
■ Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
■ Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 ■ Advertising 897-4807
■ Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

• 100% soy ink •

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
Managing Editor **JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO**
Associate Editor **ABELARDO S. ULANDAY**
News Editor **ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.**
Opinion Editor **JORGE V. ARUTA**
Assistant News Editor **NILO B. PAUROM**
National Editor **PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.**
City Editor **GERRY LIRIO**
Senior Deskpersons **ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO**
Editorial Consultant **AMANDO DORONILA**
Chief Photographer **ERNESTO U. SARMIENTO**
Art & Design Director **LYNETT A. VILLARIBA**

Board Chairman **MARIXI R. PRIETO**
President **ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **RENATO R. REINOSO**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **DAVID O. VALDES**
VP for Advertising **FELIPE R. OLARTE**
AVP for Circulation **GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL**

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.

IQ or charisma?

EDITORIAL

WHAT quality would you rather that the President have, IQ or charisma?

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo asked this question last Friday at a meeting of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club Inc. She was defending her leadership style amid criticism that she lacked the "common touch" of her predecessor, deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The answer should be obvious to any right-thinking person. But not every Filipino is a right-thinking person. There is still a sizable group out there that would prefer that a "charismatic," charming person like Estrada preside over the government and have a big say in charting the course of this nation.

Charisma. It is a Greek word that literally means "the gift of grace." In the beginning it meant the extraordinary power given a Christian by the Holy Spirit for the good of the church. By extension it came to mean the personal appeal or magnetism that gives a person influence over a large number of people. Now it is loosely used to mean a special magnetic charm or appeal, as in "the charisma of a popular actor."

Sociologist Max Weber said: "Charisma is a certain quality of an individual personality, by virtue of which he or she is set apart from ordinary people and treated as endowed with supernatural, superhuman or at least specifically exceptional powers or qualities. These are such as are not accessible to the ordinary person, but are regarded as of divine origin or exemplary, and on the basis of them the individual concerned is treated as a leader."

Charisma is an elusive, tricky term, but somehow people recognize that a person has it when they meet him or her. US Presidents Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Jack Kennedy and British Prime Ministers Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher had it, but so did Hitler and Charles Manson. Ferdinand Marcos and Estrada had charisma, but look what they did to the nation. Charismatic leaders can lead people astray or into disaster. Recall what David Kouresh of the Branch Dravidians and Jim Jones of Jonestown did to their followers.

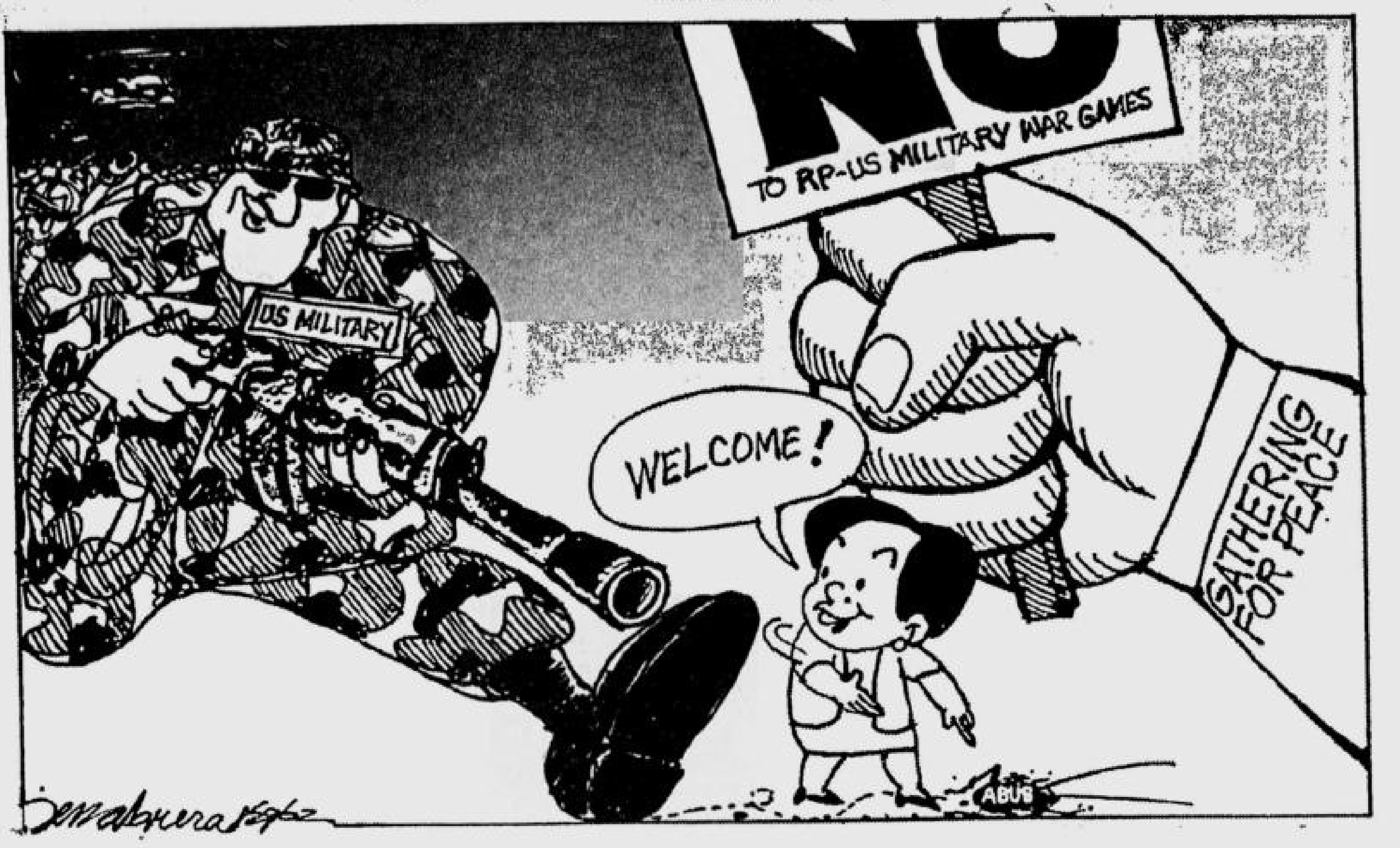
Charismatic leaders are often depicted as organizational geniuses or "magic" leaders who can bring about turnarounds, launch new projects, inspire reform and renewal and draw extraordinary performance from their followers. They inspire trust and faith in themselves, but as the examples of Hitler, Kouresh and Jones have shown, this does not guarantee that their mission will be the right one or that it will be ethical and successful.

Intelligence—measured as IQ, the numerical index of a person's general intelligence compared to others of his or her age group—is of course a major prerequisite for a leader, such as the president of a country. But there are different kinds of intelligence. There are verbal/linguistic intelligence and logic/mathematic intelligence. Then there are spatial intelligence, kinesthetic intelligence, musical intelligence, social intelligence and emotional intelligence, which has been called the true intelligence by some psychologists. A person with EQ has the highest control over his or her emotions and thus can achieve the best possible results.

Ms Macapagal has a high IQ, but her critics say she does not have EQ or charisma, is "cold and distant," and comes across as "*mataray* or too strong" and "all-knowing." But at least she is punctual, has a good work ethic and gets things done. She is quite different from her predecessor who was noted for his tardiness, laziness, procrastination and laid-back style of governance.

Insofar as show-biz appeal, charm, and well, let's use that word, "charisma" are concerned, Estrada is really a tough act to follow. But as the President and her spokespersons have said, we are not living in the world of show biz, a world of illusion. We are living in a world of hard reality, and in this world, charm and charisma won't solve our problems. A vision, a sense of mission, intelligence, hard work might do it.

So, is it IQ or charisma? Give us IQ any time, but if it can be coupled with charisma, it would be better, for then a president having both qualities can inspire and get the full support of her people in working to move this nation forward.



Another cartel looming in the oil industry

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ONE of the biggest mistakes of the Philippine government was to privatize its oil company, Petron. When the downstream oil industry was deregulated, the three oil companies, including Petron, became a cartel manipulating and overpricing its finished products. Thus, have a cartel as the source of our crude oil, the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (Opec), and another cartel composed of the three big local oil companies to refine oil. Now comes the prospect of another cartel in the oil industry: the shipping companies that transport the finished petroleum products from the refineries to the consumers.

The Philippine Petroleum Sea Transport Association (Philpesta) and Philippine Interisland Shipping Association (Pisa) want the government to close down the government-owned PNOC Shipping and Transport Corp. (PSTC), a sister firm of Petron. PSTC owns and operates the tankers that ship the petroleum products of Petron to the various islands for sale to consumers. The private shipping operators (Philpesta and Pisa) ship the rest of the petroleum products.

Now they have written to Energy Secretary Vincent Perez to order the government shipping corporation to "wind up" its operations and eventually close shop. Their reason: the policy of the government is not to compete with the private sector and the private sector has enough tonnage to cover PSTC's share, which is only 7 percent of the total volume.

The trouble with this is that the consumer prices of finished petroleum products will rise. Right now, PSTC charges lower rates than the private shipping groups because it is a sister corporation of Petron. Plus, it remits its profits to the National Treasury.

If government competition is removed, the two private shipping groups will have full control of the transportation of fuel products and can raise its rates, like what the Big 3 oil refineries (Shell, Caltex and Petron) are doing. The higher rates will eventually have to be passed on to the consumers.

Besides, it is only the PSTC that continues to deliver oil products to "missionary," or high security risk or hostile, strife-torn, routes like Basilan, Jolo and Zamboanga which the private shipping firms avoid for obvious reasons. Without PSTC, these islands will have no fuel and electricity. Just look at what happened to air transportation. When PAL stopped services to its "missionary routes," the other airlines refused to go there because they were losing money. As a result, these islands are not connected to the rest of the country by air transportation.

What caused the sudden lobby of the private sector to eliminate competition from the PSTC? Because the PSTC wanted to upgrade its aging vessels to avoid accidents and sea pollution. The PSTC applied for a loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines under its Domestic Shipping Modernization Program to replace one 22-year-old tanker, MT Felipe Agoncillo, in order to meet the demand of Petron for younger and more efficient bottoms. The vessels of the private shipping firms are even older but they don't want the PSTC to acquire new vessels. They want the PSTC closed down so they won't have any competition.

In a letter to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Perez said there is no "surplus tonnage" as alleged by Philpesta. That "surplus tonnage," Perez said, refers to the over-aged tankers (15 years old and above) which the private sector insists on offering but which the oil companies strongly refuse considering its desire to modernize (10 years old and below) for considerations of safety and environment protection and competitive freight rates.

Philpesta's own study show that half of the domestic fleet, being more than 15 years old (average fleet age is 18 years), are unable to meet the rigid requirements of the oil companies, Perez said. But if there are no newer vessels, the oil firms will be forced to use the old vessels of the private sector.

The PSTC's plan to acquire a new vessel will not be a burden to the national government, Perez added, as it will be financed by a loan from the DBP and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). This loan facility has been available since 1998 but remains unused because some Philpesta members failed to qualify. Unused, these funds may be forfeited.

On the contrary, the PSTC continues to earn profits for the national government in spite of its lower freight rates. Moreover, it can pay for the loan in five to seven years, said Gen. Cesar Tapia, PSTC president.

The PSTC will eventually be privatized, Tapia said, but in order to get the best price for its assets, it must upgrade its vessels and continue to operate to maintain and get new shipping contracts. Existing contracts raise the value of companies being sold, Tapia said.

But the over-riding reason to keep the PSTC and modernize it is to prevent another cartel from victimizing again the oil industry and the Filipino consumers.

The not so greatest

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IF you're going for a metaphor or parallel, make sure you've got the terms of your metaphor or parallel right. Make absolutely sure at least it's not going to prove ironic, or boomerang on you.

That's what I thought when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo compared herself to Muhammad Ali at the 20th anniversary of the Makati Business Club. During Ali's early boxing career, Ms Macapagal recalled, "the Greatest" told a heckler during one of his fights, "You're down there shouting, I'm up here fighting." She feels the same way, said the President. "Like Ali, I'm up on the ring fighting, and like him, I'll be slugging away for the full 15 rounds."

Maybe it was Ms Macapagal's ways of trying to sound homespun, or to appeal to the boxing-minded male population of this country. I don't know how much she knows about Ali, but it was an unfortunate reference that draws attention to their differences more than to their similarities.

The most important difference being that Ali worked his way to the championship ring while Ms Macapagal did not. Ali proved himself all the way, earning every right to fight against the best of them. He could afford to be tart and testy, but he was never one or the other. He was merely mischievous and witty, the forerunner of today's rap artists, as Time suggested in its centennial issue, with his easy rhymes and playful limericks. He did not owe his audience, least of all his hecklers, anything. He was not in the ring because of them, he was in the ring in spite of them.

That is not so in the case of Ms Macapagal. She did not prove herself all the way, she earned a crack at the presidency completely by accident. Repartee and wit we cannot have enough of in a public figure, especially the highest official of the land. They suggest intelligence and grace, which Ali plentifully had, though he was unschooled and almost illiterate. Tartness and testiness do not sit well with any leader, but especially one who became so on the backs of the people, or on the wings of people power. Whence her critics abundantly come from. Unlike Ali, Ms Macapagal is not in the ring in spite of the spectators, she is in there only by the grace of them.

Infinitely more importantly, Ali, even during his reign as world champion, never took the easy route but hewed heroically to his principles. He never tried to please the people who ran the boxing profession (it was more a racket than a profession till he came along) and refused to live up to the stereotype of a good black fighter as a lion in the ring but a mouse outside of it. He didn't just buck formidable thugs and maulers like Sonny Liston and George Foreman, he bucked more formidable thugs and maulers in the form of a bigoted community and a vindictive government.

At the height of his powers and popularity, he refused to join the draft on religious grounds and got stripped of his crown. Ali would slug away for the full 15 rounds, as Ms Macapagal rightly says, but he would do so in a ring far bigger than the one at Caesar's Palace. He would become "the Greatest" in ways no prizefighter had done before, or probably ever will.

Since she became President, as indeed before she did, Ms Macapagal has taken only the line of least resistance, or the easy way out. She has been especially eager to please the individuals whom she presumes to have put her in power—wrongly, since it was the people, in an act of spontaneous rebellion, and not Cory Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin and Fidel Ramos, that did. She has willingly lived up to the stereotype of a good Filipino President as an American lackey. The Sept. 11 attack and its economic aftermath have merely given her added reason to prosecute American interests with special zeal. She hasn't fought against adversity, like Ali, or indeed like Claro M. Recto, Lorenzo Tañada, Jose W. Diokno and Jovito Salonga. She has surrendered without token resistance to the new American ideology that reduces the world into terrorists and anti-terrorists, pro-Americans and anti-Americans.

If she has shown resolve and dedication, it is only in making sure she gets a second term, as an elected president this time. Unlike Ali, who refused to let his crown get in the way of his beliefs, she will not let her beliefs—such as they are—get in the way of her crown. There is no doubt Ms Macapagal would slug away the full 15 rounds, but only in the tiny ring of "politicking," the ring she refuses to let opponents climb up. Of course, on her first day in office, she proclaimed that she was not aspiring to become the greatest Filipino President, or even a great one, only a good one. She may not even be remembered for that.

That is what turns off about the *taray*. The one thing we expect from this President is humility, not arrogance, given the circumstances that shoved her to where she is. She is not in the ring in spite of the clamorous hecklers, who also clamorously heckled Erap all the way to the Veterans Memorial Hospital. She is in the ring because of them. There is no contradiction, quite incidentally, between humility and pride, contrary to popular belief. The Greatest had both in abundance. Ali was the proudest man on the earth, hurling his Olympic medal into the river when he came back to Louisville only to be met by the same racial hatred he thought he had left behind. Yet he was also the humblest man on earth, bowing before the will of Allah (he is a Muslim, not quite incidentally) as he saw it articulated in the arduous paths he had to take.

Ms Macapagal has her own image of herself. The public has another. It is that of a heron perched on a carabao, who believes she is taller and bigger than the carabao. And who likes to tell the world of it—in a *mataray* way.

Not all who question US forces here are commies

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ALL the lawlessness that the Abu Sayyaf has exhibited in its vicious kidnapping forays, and which the Pentagon Gang seems to be trying to improve upon, has made the average Filipino practically beg for the involvement of the American forces, if only to bring peace and stability to Mindanao. This is something that the most militant groups now loudly denouncing the arrival and involvement of the US forces cannot deny. A political analyst has rightly opined that if the US forces can help capture the Abu Sayyaf, then all the objections to their being here would vanish like soap bubbles, but if the campaign fails, then even the administration of President Macapagal risks opprobrium for having brought the *Kano* here.

* * *

For the President, however, to say that those who oppose the involvement of the US troops are "communists" is to add one blunder to another. For there are those, including politicians, who prefer to keep the leftists at arm's length and mortally dread being used by them in this issue, but who are also insisting on a clear, unequivocal explanation of the rules of engagement of US forces here. Some of these politicians are Ms Macapagal's political allies. It is important to note, however, that the impatience over the wooly thinking on US involvement here is not confined to this country; it is growing on both sides of the Pacific. President Bush is also being attacked for the lack of clear-cut US policies on their troops here and what amounts to day-to-day planning. And fear is growing even in America that developments in Mindanao could cause US involvement to deepen beyond what is now being talked about.

There are two things that will help lighten the Macapagal administration's load: if the war against the Abu Sayyaf can be brought to a reasonably quick close, after which the *Kano* gets out of here fast; and if the Supreme Court resolves quickly the suit filed before it by various militant groups, challenging the constitutionality of current arrangements under the Visiting Forces Agreement. *Huwag na nating patagalin ang* Supreme Court ruling.

* * *

Earlier I spoke about problems that new LTO Chief Roberto Lastimoso and MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos ought to confront to ease traffic and make Metro Manila safe. One problem is the rampant use of bright yellow as tail-lights when regulations call only for yellow light in front and red for regular rear light. Compounding the problem is the fact that some misguided kids use blue and white tail-lights instead of the regulation red. Using bright lights in a vehicle's rear can cause accidents especially on the highways, since drivers from the opposite lane could mistake them for oncoming traffic. In other countries one cannot get away with such stupidity. The most notorious in this regard are cargo trucks. Lastimoso has to act fast.

* * *

In a recent Channel 9 program where I appeared with top business leaders who are the prime movers behind the recently launched "Buy Pinoy Movement," Miguel Varela, chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries, noted that our youth market is so large that if the young could only be persuaded to patronize made-in-RP goods, our economy will improve and we can save the jobs of many factory workers. He was right about the potential of the youth market, for we have a comparatively young population.

The Buy Pinoy Movement, which involves all the chambers of commerce from north to south, is appealing to the people to buy RP-made goods, including foreign brands made here, in order to save the jobs of Filipino workers in the face of a global slowdown.

* * *

Among the many firms that have cashed in on the youth market is a local company, Bayo, which produces clothes, accessories and even cologne for the young crowd. Bayo, which means dress in Ilongo, was founded a few years back by three pretty sisters, all daughters of my good friend, the late Raymundo Dizon, and the late Susan Bautista: Ma. Corazon Dizon-Bitong, Dianna Lyn Dizon-Agustin and Susan Yvette Dizon-Lejano. The sisters have been quite successful in their business, with their clothes being sold in all the malls and advertised in giant billboards with Lea Salonga as model. In those ads, Lea's beautiful well-scrubbed face and lithe figure smartly clothed in Bayo slacks and shirts are a standout—a most welcome foil to the ads of competing brands with all their suggestive poses done in poor taste. The sisters are said to be so pleased with the response to the wholesome Lea ads that they are renewing Bayo's contract with her. This shows that people appreciate good design and workmanship in a product as well as wholesome advertising.

* * *

At the birthday dinner given by the families of twin brothers Joe and Ronnie Concepcion on their 70th birthday, I sat next to retired Comelec Commissioner Tessie Dyliaco-Flores and we talked about the Buy Pinoy Movement. Flores, who now lectures at the Judicial Academy, a school run by the Supreme Court to train budding members of the bench, is all for buying Pinoy. She pointed out that the Colgate brand of toothpaste is now manufactured in Thailand for export to the Philippines, which means that every time we buy Colgate we are ensuring jobs for Thais, not Filipinos; whereas other brands like Close-Up are manufactured right here. So, she buys Close-Up, she said. Incidentally, AquaFresh toothpaste is manufactured in Australia for export to RP. I agree with Flores: Let's buy brands that are made here.

Poverty and sustainability

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SINCE the Asian currency crisis in 1997 and even before then, development NGOs in the country have been facing a financial crisis. I use the restrictive term "development NGOs" deliberately, to refer only to non-government organizations engaged in human and community development work, and to distinguish it from the rest of "civil society," which includes political organizations and parties, civic groups and even religious organizations.

Anyway, NGOs have traditionally depended on a few sources of funds to sustain their operations. Some NGOs are created and/or supported by corporations or families, who consider the NGO their vehicle for social development. Cynics have often accused these corporations and families of using these NGOs or foundations as tax shelters or as salves for their consciences. But let's not get into that.

Other NGOs rely on local philanthropists or local fund-raising activities, such as bazaars, sponsored affairs like premieres and concerts, fun runs and the like.

Many development NGOs also depend on foreign sources of funds. These range from the development agency of a foreign government (such as the US Agency for International Development, and the Canadian International Development Agency), a United Nations agency (such as the UN Fund for Population), or a foreign church organization (such as Misereor, which is the German bishops' fund-raising arm) or even a foreign private fund (such as the David and Lucille Packard Foundation or the Freidrick Ebert Foundation).

* * *

WHY should a foreign government or a foreign institution be interested in funding the work of a private entity such as an NGO in another country?

For some governments, the "transaction" may promise genuine political and diplomatic advantage, such as improving relations between the two countries, or it may simply fall in line with its foreign policy, such as encouraging economic development in poor countries (a developed economy, after all, has a greater appetite for foreign goods). Or the impetus may simply spring from genuine humanitarian concern (let's not discount that totally).

But even if foreign institutions have been the most common (I don't know if it's really the preferred option) source of funding for Philippine NGOs, dealing with them has its drawbacks.

For one, foreign funds are generally limited to what is called a "cycle," most commonly three years. That is, after a project proposal is approved and an amount is agreed upon, the money will stop coming after three years, or even before that if something goes wrong, thereby limiting the life of any project. Sometimes, a funder may believe so strongly in the project that it will approve an extension, but that, too, is limited to a cycle.

For another, project funds are expected (and for this reason the accounting and paper work demanded is stringent) to be used solely for the project itself. Funders generally frown upon project money being used to sustain secretariat or administrative operations, such as salaries of personnel. Although one has to wonder how the funders expect an NGO to sustain its operations without the personnel to carry out the projects. Administrative expenses are often carried by the local partner as its "counterpart."

* * *

BUT as I said earlier, lately, the development NGO community has been facing a financial crisis. Over the years, there has been a steady decline in funding. Private local and foreign sources have been badly hit by the economic crises. Even projects which have been up and running have had their scope and financing curtailed to accommodate a funder's changed circumstance.

Assistance from foreign governments is also subject to shifting political priorities, whether from a change in administration or a foreign affairs emergency. After the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union, for instance, aid money was shifted from Asia and Africa to the newly independent former Soviet states and to Eastern Europe.

No wonder the buzz word among NGOs these days is "sustainability." Simply put, it's an organization's ability to stand on its own without need of external supports, be it from government, a foreign funder or a sponsor. For the truth of the matter is, unless it finds sustainable sources of funds, an NGO, no matter how praiseworthy its endeavors, cannot exist for long.

* * *

IRONICALLY the call for "sustainability" and the drying up of traditional funding sources come at a time when the need for development projects—the delivery of basic services, income-generating activities, job generation, education, community organization and the like—is increasing in urgency and importance.

All the foregoing, in fact, is by way of a lengthy *pasakalye* to a discussion of the "PEACe Bonds," which was the attempt of Code-NGO, the largest umbrella organization of development NGOs in the country, to go beyond the "traditional" sources of funds to ensure the "sustainability" of its members and its members' projects.

"We had long been conscious of the tightening and in fact closing off of many sources of funds," says Marissa Camacho-Reyes, chair of Code-NGO. "But at the same time, we realized that we needed to act with utmost urgency to address poverty in our country. And this was brought home to us even more vividly after the May 1 siege of Malacañang." (*More tomorrow*)

Readers' response

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

WE are reprinting in full Israeli Ambassador Irit Ben Abba's comments on the column, "It wasn't what it seemed," published last Jan. 5:

"I would, if I may, like to comment on few remarks made in the article:

"It would be too superficial to state that the US's support of Israel is only due to the oil problem. It is true that the Middle East is of strategic importance to the United States as well as to other countries, including the Philippines, due to the massive resources of oil; however, this is not the only reason. The fact that Israel is the only democracy in the region, and that Israel has a stable leadership, open society, advanced economy and is the home to so many Jews who migrated from the United States are also crucial factors in the United States' overall policy toward Israel. Experts would also argue that the strong Jewish lobby in the United States is a factor in its policy toward Israel.

"As per your quotations from the book written by the British author, William Dalrymple, I cannot but regret reading his observations. The Israeli Arabs, which comprise 15 percent of the total population of Israel, are full-fledged citizens of the State of Israel. They enjoy all rights of being citizens of Israel, they vote for their representatives in the Parliament and, apart from not serving in the army since we would not request them to be in a situation where they would fight against their own brothers, they enjoy full rights. The Druze and the Beduims are the exception, serving in the Army on a voluntary basis. A high percentage of the Israeli Arabs are university graduates and are integrated fully in the job market, same as any other citizen of the State.

"I therefore regret the incorrect perception your readers might have gotten on the status of the Israeli."

William Dalrymple's book, "In Xanadu," was published in 1990. It describes a trip to retrace the steps of Marco Polo from Jerusalem to Xanadu, the palace of Kublai Khan, north of Beijing. Whether the situation in Acre as described by his interview with Palestinians has since changed or whether his subjects were lying I cannot say. Nor are there any scholars on the Palestinians in the country that I know of who could comment. It is evident though that there is a dearth of knowledge regarding certain issues that are affecting the world at this moment.

During our college days at the Assumption we used to have once-a-week sessions where we discussed current world issues during Professors Justo Albert's or Waldo Perfecto's classes. I would be very much surprised if there are any such discussions in present-day history classes

* * *

Romeo Galang writes in to ask some questions with regard to two articles about the inventory of artifacts at Sta. Cruz Church. If anyone has information regarding the issues brought up, we would be grateful for your comments.

"Is there a devotion to San Saturnino in Santa Cruz, as can be inferred from one of the bells? Furthermore, did the San Saturnino painting that is extant (most likely in the San Agustin Museum collection) originally came from the Santa Cruz Church, or at least was it painted by one of the guild painters from Santa Cruz?"

(I asked Regalado Jose, and his theory is that since there is no record of any devotion to San Saturnino, it is likely that it was the parish priest at the time who had a devotion to the saint or he was born on that saint's feast day. Jose agrees that if such a painting of the saint exists in the San Agustin Museum, it must have been painted by one of the guild painters. Will Fr. Pedro Galende please enlighten us?)

"Was the inventory just an annotation to an older inventory? Is there a summary of artifacts that survived World War II? The image of the Nuestra Señora del Pilar survived because it was kept in the vaults of the Philippine National Bank during the war. What about the other images, were all of them lost during the war?"

(The inventory that I saw starts in 1910. There is a later inventory dated 1953 that annotates the inventory of 1941 wherein the words "*quemado*" and "burnt" are written on the margin after certain objects such as the images of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary with face and hands of ivory as well as images of St. John the Baptist and the oil painting in the baptistery. I don't think all of the artifacts were destroyed but these are no longer kept in the church.)

"Is the silver pillar still extant? What about the *anda* of the Virgin, was it also lost?" (The silver dress of he Virgin is said to be still extant, and I don't think the pillar or the *andas* were lost. However I'm still looking for them.)

Galang has several other items of information that should prove valuable to readers interested in this country's history. He states: "There are still a lot of Jesuit-related artifacts in Santa Cruz at the time of the inventory. The common practice in other towns was to substitute the saints of the regular's order after they took over the church. However, in the case of Santa Cruz, an altar still enshrined the image of Saint Stanislao of Kostka up to the time of the inventory. I know of just one other church that had an image of Saint Stanislao: Silang Church. In fact, the epistle-side altar of Silang has a host of *relleve* of a Jesuit saint, with Saint Stanislao in the bottom row. These altars may be one of the very few churches with intact statuaries and images after the Jesuits' expulsion."

Shoplifter

YOUNGBLOOD

Pendong

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—***Ed.***

FOR the record, I'm not a perennial or professional shoplifter, just a rookie (if there is such a classification). I shoplift not because I want to. I have reasons for doing this, and I would be glad to share them.

One Sunday after an excruciating training in the Reserve Officers Training Corps, I went to SM City North Edsa to look for a certain book. I saw one at a popular bookstore. I don't remember now its actual price, but I'm quite sure that it was too expensive for a student like me. I think it was P300, more or less. I had enough money in my pocket to buy the book but I needed it for other necessary expenses, including my food for the next few days. I did not buy the book.

Then I saw a former classmate and told him why I was there. To my surprise, he related to me that an "insider" had told him matter-of-factly that the prices of most, if not all, books (which includes the actual cost of production, copyright, taxes, and some other variables) and other stuff in the mall have an amount tucked into it (around 10 to 15 percent of the tag price) to cover losses from shoplifting, damage and the like.

If I got it right, whenever I buy a book, I am actually paying an extra amount for the "possible" loss of the company "in case" one or a few of their books are stolen. The same is true if I buy other things at the mall.

Honestly, I find such a scheme wicked and unfair. Instead of beefing up their security, and thus, making sure such losses don't occur, they pass on the burden for such losses to the customers. Think of it: shoplifting (or the loss of some books or materials) is already presupposed, meaning the storeowners will be making profits beyond what is due to them if no losses occur. And we, the customers, are paying for it.

I hate to say this, but I think these guys in the upper echelons of management are using us to earn profits that they don't actually deserve. Why don't they just strengthen their security?

I had enough of that. We decided to have lunch at the Food Court on the ground floor. When I'm in a mall, I usually opt to eat in inexpensive fast-food outlet, and Jollibee is always my first choice. (I am a working student, by the way.) Unlike in a regular Jollibee branch, (and when I say "regular," I mean a store that has its own attendants and waiters and its own dining area) Jollibee in the food court gives out no plastic spoons and forks; you have to get plain metal ones.

I found the practice a good one—at first. This allows us to help minimize waste and save our resources. Why? Providing customers with plastic spoons and forks, when they are dining in, adds up to waste because those utensils are thrown away after use. Nobody washes those plastic utensils for reuse, right?

Anyway, after buying our food, my friend asked me how much it cost (he got his food from another stall, Chinatown, I think). I said, "The same as in Philcoa."

"How come it costs the same, when they are spending less by not using plastic spoons and forks?" he demanded.

I ponder his words and quickly realized that he was right. Although they pay additional personnel to wash those things, still, it's just like paying for their own waiters to attend to customers. In a regular outlet, the cost of the meal would include the cost of the food, labor, rent, franchise and other materials used like styrofoam, tissue, spoons and forks. In our case, the cost of the meal included all of the variables I mentioned, less the spoons and forks. So I should have gotten a cheaper price.

I wondered why they still have the same price. I realized that the management assumed that some materials would be lost, or stolen, by some of their customers, just like what my friend told me earlier. Again they were covering "possible" losses by charging their customers higher. And if nothing would be lost, they would earn more profits than what they deserved.

That Sunday afternoon, I was angry. After I finished off my soft drink, I took five pairs of spoons and forks and put them inside my bag. They had been paid for a long time ago, I reasoned. Then I asked my friend to accompany me to the bookstore.

We looked for the book that I wanted to buy. I put the book and a nice black ballpen inside my bag. My friend also took two pretty greeting cards and a dozen shiny stickers.

We went out, passing the guard who didn't bother to check our bags, and headed for the campus.

Unless I receive some convincing explanations for this situation, I cannot guarantee it would be the last time I would do such a thing. And the guards better watch out—next time I just might slip into my bag a couple of Christmas trees.

Pendong, 21, is a senior political science student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. He is, at present, so much confused about the difference between love and friendship.

THEY SAID

Way out of poverty

"I became an NPA soldier because I understand deeply that to overcome poverty, war is inevitable."

—"Ka Silaw," a soldier of the NPA's Northern Mindanao Region on being a guerrilla

Fighting for a living

"It's difficult to be without a job. I come from a poor family and I still have to help my parents even if I'm married. I did not finish college so I joined the Army."

—Pvt. Rene Desanto on why he continues to serve the military

Convenient alibi

"The US government is just using the hostage crisis as an alibi. Something sinister is behind this outrageous deal."

—Rodolfo Simbajon, Pamalakaya national chair, in a statement on the recent visit of US Congressman Todd Tiahrt

Focus on 2004

"Her supposed desire to serve the country is overwhelmed and obscured by her stronger desire to win in 2004."

—People's Consultative Assembly chair Salvador Enriques Jr. on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Rebel of a different kind

"I am a rebel, not because I want to topple the government but because I do what's good for it."

—Former Land Transportation Office chief Edgardo Abenina on rumors he was plotting a coup d' état

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

LETTERS

A welcome development in sports

ERIC Buhain's appointment as Philippine Sports Commission chair is a very welcome development for Philippine sports.

More than his accomplishments as a bemedalled swimmer who has earned a lot of honors for the country, he is largely instrumental in making the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association one of the better managed organizations both in terms of innovative programs, setting performance records and discovering/developing new athletes.

I believe one of the key success factors behind the swimming association is the fact that its leaders are former athletes like Buhain, Marc Joseph and Akiko Thompson who have not only the passion, but the credibility and genuine (not business) concern for the sport.

Of course, being a former athlete does not automatically mean one will be a good administrator, too. But we do have enough former athletes who have evolved into good managers like Bong Coo who should be tapped to help Philippine sports.

Having been involved in staging and promoting various local and international sports events, I know for a fact that many corporate sponsors are interested in helping develop Philippine sports (beyond basketball, golf and boxing) by way of sponsorships. However, they are discouraged by all the squabbles and wary about the possibility that their money may not be benefiting the intended beneficiaries, the athletes.

Along with my best wishes, here are my expectations from the PSC under Buhain's leadership:

1. More transparency in accounting for its allocation of government resources and corporate donations.

2.. Clear accountability for each commissioner so the public can monitor who is performing and who is not.

3. No favoritism among the national sports associations.

4. Better working relationship with the Philippine Olympic Committee.

5. A program to protect, develop and optimize the performance of athletes who give their most productive years to the country only to retire with nothing except empty promises from politicians.—**ED DAMES, sports marketing director, Hemisphere Leo Burnett, 24/F The Enterprise Center Tower 2, Ayala Avenue, Makati City**

PAF okays detail of athletes to sports agencies

WE wish to rectify Marc Anthony Reyes' news article "Military becomes obstacle to Asiad-bound athletes," last Jan. 17.

The truth is, the Air Force does not want to interfere with the training of Asiad-bound athletes or athletes who will represent our country in an international competition. It simply has not received any request yet for deferment of participants.

Allow me to enlighten you. Last October 2001, all military athletes and coaches who were detailed with Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and National Sports Association (NSA) were recalled by the General Headquarters (GHQ) to participate in the 2001 AFP-PNP Olympics. Since January to March is an off-season for sports, this command deemed it wise to send all the PAF athletes to undergo a two-and-a-half month Basic Military Training as this will prepare them for a more productive life in the service when they can no longer be competitive as athletes.

However, national athletes who opted to defer their training were advised to secure a letter of deferment from PSC/NSA. Up to this date, the command has not received any request from PSC/NSA for the detail of our two athletes with the PSC, particularly with Philippine Track and Field Association (Patafa) headed by Go Teng Kok.

Note that the PAF has always favorably considered requests for PAF athletes to be detailed with PSC/NSA for national or international tournaments.

Air Force Chief Lt. Gen Benjamin P Defensor Jr. has been endorsing the PAF athletes to represent the country in international/national competitions.

By the way, among the five athletes mentioned in the story, only two are PAF athletes: A1C Eduardo Buenavista and A1C Ernie Candelario.—**ARTURO JOSE G. ORTICIO JR., major, Philippine Air Force, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Public Information Office, Col. Jose Villamor Air Base, Pasay City**

Are we being swindled in Malampaya?

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. should answer squarely some questions about the Malampaya gas field:

1. How much gas reserves are confirmed or proven in Malampaya?

2. How much gas, in cubic feet, will be extracted every year?

3. What is the value (in US dollars) of the extracted gas per annum?

4. What percentage of its annual production will go to the government as royalty? And how much will go to Shell and Texaco?

5. Where is the signed agreement between government and the foreign contractors spelling out the share of production?

Last October, the government crowed it would be receiving $13 billion as royalties over a 20-year period. Nowhere in the press releases did the government ever claim it would receive anything like a "60 percent share of net proceeds from the Malampaya gas production." Perez claims this only now.

The press release also stated that Shell and Texaco each owned 45 percent of the Malampaya project, while the government (PNOC) owned only 10 percent. By inference, if the government will receive $13 billion in royalty over 20 years equivalent to its 10-percent ownership share, then the total estimated revenues over 20 years from the Malampaya field amounts to $130 billion. Shell and Texaco will each earn $58.5 billion over 20 years, corresponding to their 45 percent share.

If this sharing scheme does not swindle the government of its rightful and sovereign share, I want to know Perez's definition of swindle.

I mentioned Prof. Mason Gaffney's study showing other countries receiving 50-80 percent of gross revenues from gas and oil production as royalty tax. Perez attempts to impress us with a "60 percent" figure—but based on "net proceeds." Net of what? And why was this "60 percent," if truly significant, not part of the hype last October if it was true?

I smell something rotten hear. No amount of fudging or finessing will cover up the swindle and impoverishment of the Filipino people in the Malampaya gas project.—**ALLAN TOLENTINO, Unit 9 Cosmopolitan cor. Condominium B, Gonzales and Avelino Sts., Xavierville II, Loyola Heights, Quezon City**

What options?

PINOY KASI

Michael Tan

A FORMER student texted me last week after reading my column on Mindanao: "I, too, am not comfortable with US troops, but what other options do we have?"

Coincidentally, that same day I ran into a Muslim friend who had just come up from Mindanao and who has, for years, been deeply involved in programs to help her fellow Muslims. I quickly peppered her with questions about the situation there and then realized that her responses had generated even more questions for me. Identifying the right questions to ask can give us a better picture of the options.

I can't mention my friend's name, not because she belongs to one of the rebel groups but because she in fact assists the Philippine government as a frontline worker at the community level. It is this involvement which allows her to ask the questions that our President and other government officials have been skirting in this controversy over US troop involvement.

My friend from Mindanao shares the sentiments of both Muslims and Christians that the Abu Sayyaf is a bunch of thugs who need to be crushed, but she points out, too, that we will see more Abu Sayyaf groups if we don't get on to long-term economic and social reforms. Critics will say, sure, but because these are long-term solutions, we can't afford to sit back and wait. I agree, we need to begin to untangle the problems now. Unfortunately, we keep thinking only of military solutions, including this matter of bringing in American soldiers.

I have no doubts the American troops will score some impressive victories, perhaps rescuing the Burnham couple, which will then further convince the nation that the solutions in Mindanao are to be found in military force alone. Have we considered the possibility that these military responses have in fact fuelled the strife in Mindanao? Even worse, do we seriously believe the US military will solve the problem, given its terrible track record of bungling whenever it intervenes in other countries' affairs?

We forget that the Abu Sayyaf itself is in a sense a by-product of one of the US government's botched attempts at conflict resolution. In the 1980s, the US Central Intelligence Agency poured money into Afghanistan to support radical Islamicist "holy warriors," including Osama bin Laden, to fight the Russians and their puppet Afghan government. The "holy warriors" quickly expanded, recruiting and training more radicals from all over the world, including some 600 Moro Islamic Liberation Front cadres. Marites Vitug and Glenda Gloria, in their book "Under the Crescent Moon," interviewed one of the MILF "graduates" of Afghanistan, who describes how he learned to use advanced weapons, including US anti-aircraft Stingers.

Another Filipino who trained in Afghanistan was a young man named Abdurajak Janjalani, who later founded the Abu Sayyaf, originally with a religious ideological framework. Janjalani was killed a few years ago and the Abu Sayyaf disintegrated into a bandit gang, able to survive because of its ransom money, corruption on the part of our own military, and some civilian support built on kinship and ethnic ties.

By intervening in Basilan now as part of its international "war against terrorism," the US troops are actually canonizing these Abu Sayyaf bandits, elevating them to the status of holy warriors battling the big bad American bullies.

The problem in Mindanao has been kept at a low simmer mainly because the different bandit and secessionist groups are torn by factionalism. The entry of the United States gives reason for them to unite, even if temporarily, and this could turn the conflict into a protracted jihad or "holy war." (Personally, I don't believe the conflict will explode into a full war; the likes of the Abu Sayyaf have a way of simply going underground and biding their time, launching periodic but bloody skirmishes.)

On to more questions. What are the possibilities of escalating involvement on the part of the United States, something both US and Filipino military officials have hinted at repeatedly?

Granted that the Americans are here just to train their local counterparts to handle new technologies such as speedboats and night visioning equipment, what happens after they leave, as our government claims they will in about six months? Will they leave their equipment, or do we have to cough up the money to purchase them? How much of the new skills will be useful for Filipino soldiers without the equipment?

How will these "military exercises" affect the civilian population? What sort of "rest and recreation" activities are to be expected and how will these affect the local population? (In a recent television interview, one of the Balikatan commanders clarified that the US soldiers, "being only human," will indeed have rest and recreation, but to safeguard the Americans, their breaks will be in Cebu and Manila.)

Besides the usual consequences of R&R, how much collateral damage or civilian casualties are to be expected from these "war games"? (What a ghastly oxymoron that term is.) How will these "military exercises" affect the existing refugee situation in many parts of Mindanao, silent emergencies that rarely make it into the papers.

Who controls the movements of the troops, and administers to all the needs that come out of these military operations? The United States? The Philippines? There is, we have to remember, no ARMM government to speak of right now. Misuari's group has filed for a restraining order which prevents the newly elected ARMM officials from taking over until September. So who calls the shots? Who responds to the many humanitarian needs that will emerge?

The final and most important question is simple: How much involvement is there of Filipino Muslims in all these discussions about US involvement? I don't mean sycophants and politicians beholden to the Macapagal administration. I mean Muslims, both in and out of government, who work with the communities on the ground, caught in the crossfire of a war where the options are rapidly disappearing.

No shootout with kidnap group

THIS has reference to a news report in the INQUIRER last Jan. 9, 2002 quoting me as saying that there was a shootout during the rescue operations for the three kidnap victims, Marie Cecilia Bonifacio, Fe Jayno and Sarma Muallama, in the vicinity of Barangay Lapulabao, Hagonoy, Davao del Sur, in the afternoon of Jan. 8. The three were recovered alive and 15 suspected members of a kidnap for ransom group were arrested.

The correspondents of INQUIRER's Mindanao Bureau, Allan T. Nawal and Anthony Allada, misquoted me in the report submitted to your office. There was no shootout and I vehemently deny that I told Nawal the story. Neither was I interviewed by Allada and so I could not have said that there was a shootout between the government troops and the kidnappers.—**GUILLERMO CEBAL LARA, P/Supt. (DSC), PNP provincial director, San Agustin, Digos City, Davao del Sur**

* * *

I was the one who interviewed P/Supt. Guillermo Cebal Lara over the phone.

When the news broke out here that some members of the Pentagon were arrested, I called up Lara's mobile number, but it was always "unattended." I only succeeded on my fourth try, around 3 p.m. of that day.

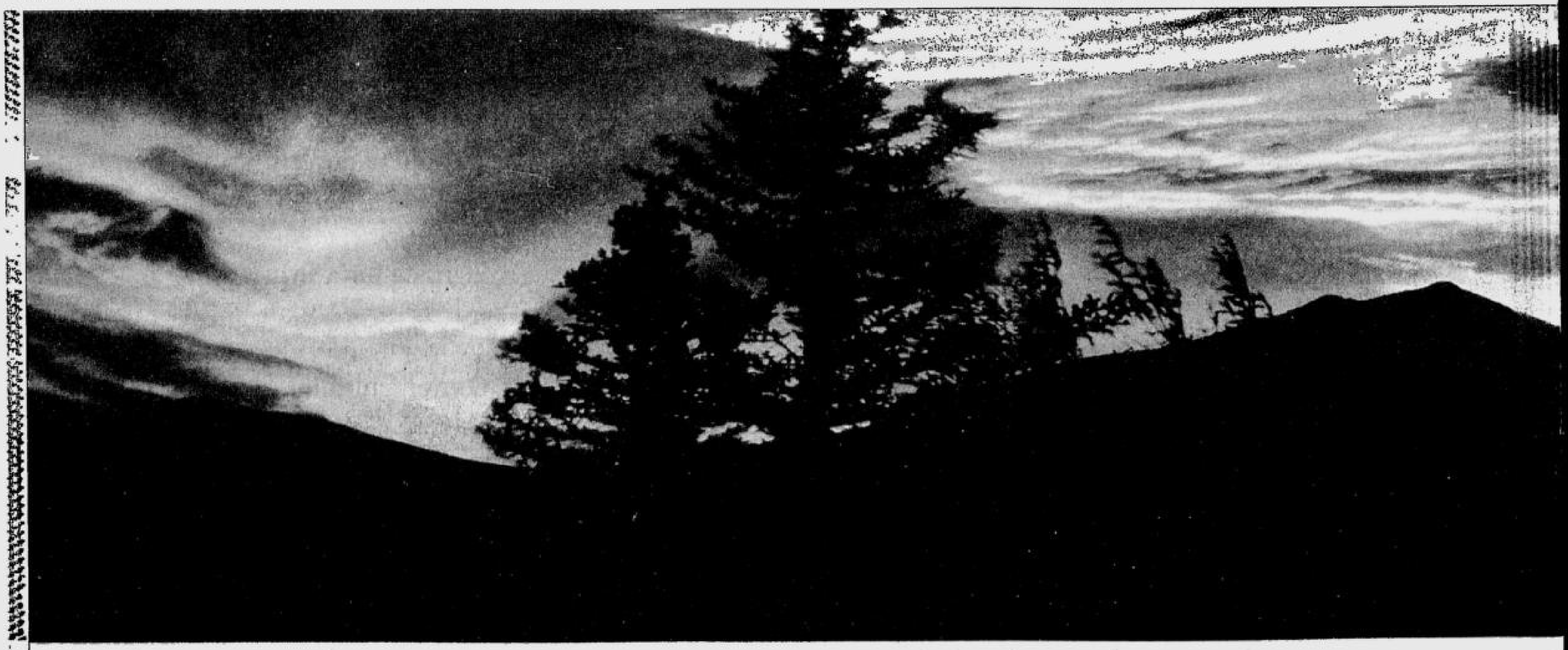
At first, he begged not to be interviewed saying he was still very busy. I was very insistent since the story could be the day's biggest.

It was during the course of my interview with him that I learned the police did not only arrest the kidnappers but also rescued Maria Cecilia Bonifacio and her two companions as well.

Lara refused to provide the details, saying he would still be making a report to the regional office.

I asked him whether there was a shootout, to which he answered, "Yes."

I further asked him if they killed any of the kidnappers, and he said no. He said the kidnappers might have sensed that they were overpowered so they ran and left their hostages in the middle of a cane field. He said government agents pursued the fleeing kidnappers and arrested some of them.—**ALLAN A. NAWAL**



RIMULA
RIMULA
RIMULA

Shell Rimula. Ang heavy duty oil na sadyang gawa para sa diesel engine.
Alam mong aabot ka at garantisado ang kita. Sige, subukan mo!

Shell Rimula. For longer oil life. Longer engine life.

The WORLD

Luvern B. Gueco, Editor

Woman suicide bomber strikes in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM—For the first time in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a Palestinian woman carried out a suicide bomb attack Sunday, killing one Israeli and injuring dozens in the heart of Jerusalem despite massive security, nudging the region further into chaos.

US Vice President Dick Cheney questioned the commitment of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to peace after the attack, citing his failure to halt terror against Israel, and for the first time directly implicated him in a major arms smuggling incident.

Scenes of chaos reigned on Jaffa Road after the massive blast. On the street, amongst the shards of metal and glass, lay the scattered remains of two bodies including a woman police believed to be the suicide bomber.

The Israeli was identified as 81-year-old man Pinhas Tokteli of Jerusalem.

The bomber was identified by Lebanese television as a student of Al-Najah University in the West Bank town of Nablus, a stronghold of Islamic activism.

Jerusalem city police chief Micki Levy suffered a heart attack shortly after addressing the press at the scene of the blast, officials said.

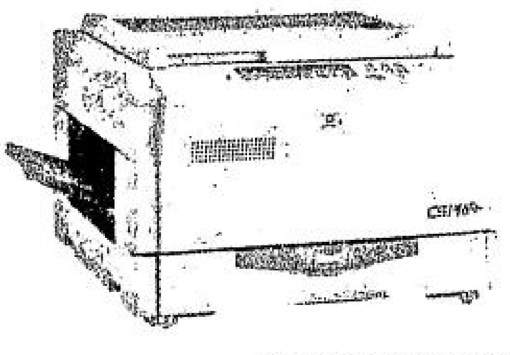
The blast gutted the Freimann and Bein shoe shop, just meters from the Sbarro pizzeria on Jaffa Road where 15 victims were killed in a suicide bombing by the radical Hamas militant group on Aug. 9, police said.

Three of the injured were in serious condition, Israeli emergency services said. Almost 40 suffered lesser injuries from flying glass and debris.

Visiting the scene for the second time in a week, Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert placed the blame for the bombing squarely on the Palestinian leader.

"Yasser Arafat is personally, individually and directly in charge and he is responsible—I have no doubt about it," he said. "As long as Arafat wants this terror to continue, it will continue."

The attack came just two days after a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv injured 18 people. That blast was claimed by Islamic Jihad and an offshoot of Arafat's Fatah faction, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. *AFP*



MINOLTA
COPIERS • DIGITAL COPIERS • COLOR COPIERS

Good Copiers Copy.
Great Ones Exceed.

Customer Hotline
7476-888

Exclusively Distributed in the Philippines by:
COPYLANDIA
OFFICE SYSTEMS CORPORATION
Copylandia Corporate Center
716 Bumatay Street (near City Hall) Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 7476-888 • Fax No. 7476-222

NATIONWIDE BRANCH NETWORK
MANILA 7476-888 • ANGELES 887-2500 / 887-2499 • BACOLOD 435-0193 • BUTUAN 342-5321
CEBU 232-4520 • CAGAYAN DE ORO 857-4249 / 857-4272 • DAGUPAN 515-3306
DAVAO 224-0792 • DUMAGUETE 225-4759 • ILIGAN 221-3710 • ILOILO 320-7488
LIPA 757-0235 • LOS BANOS 536-5458 • NAGA (0917) 816-9974 • TACLOBAN 321-7610
TAGBILARAN 235-3431 • ZAMBOANGA 991-2446

Hamas building missiles

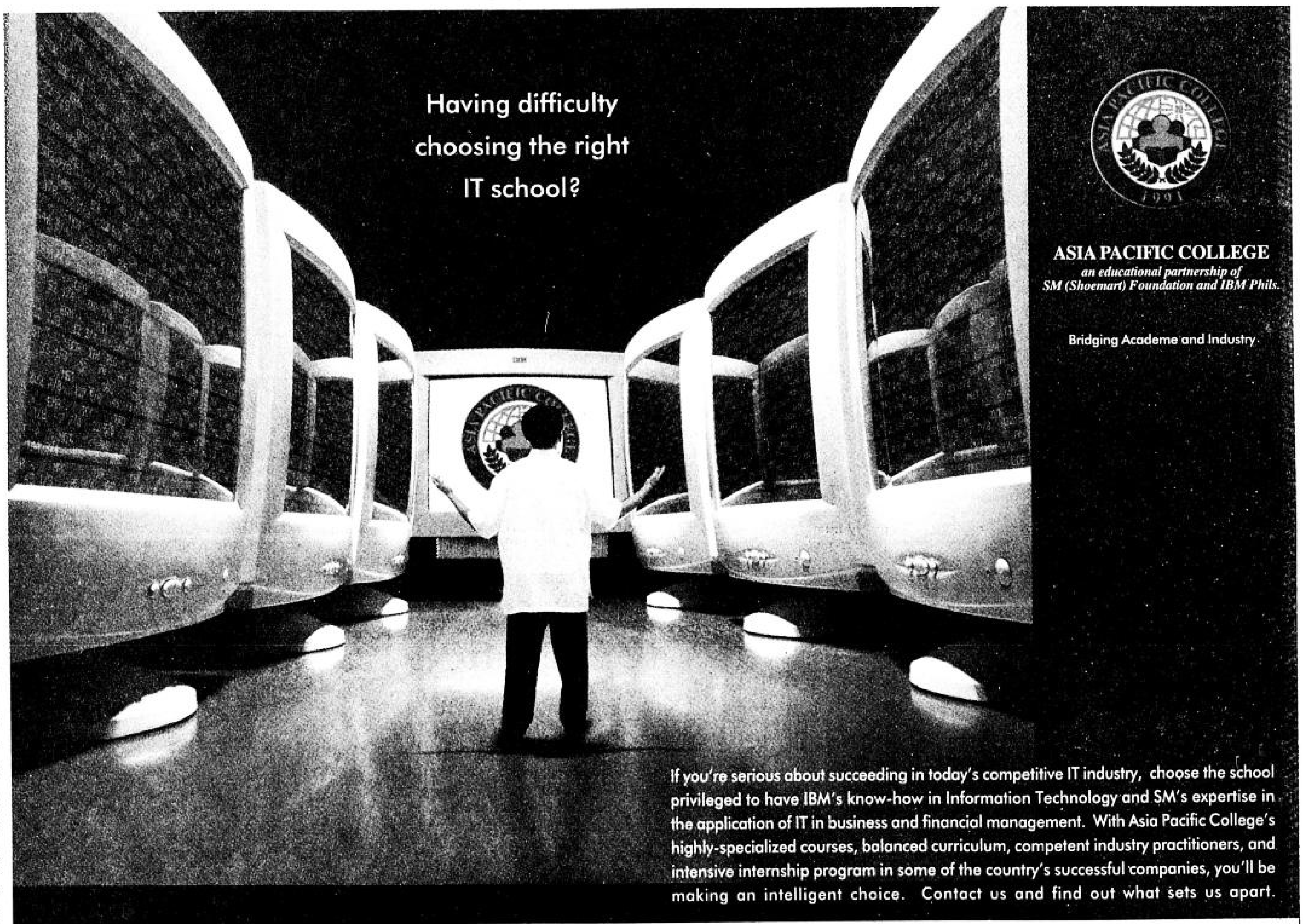
WASHINGTON—A top leader of Hamas said Sunday the radical Palestinian group is building missiles with a nearly 10-km range, which would enable it to hit Israeli neighborhoods in Jerusalem.

"We want to resist the occupation with these missiles," Moussa Abu Marzook told the CBS "60 minutes" program, which airs on Sunday.

"Israelis are entering (Palestinian) houses with tanks to destroy and kill people," he said, according to excerpts of the interview made public by the network.

"Seventy-three houses were destroyed and people couldn't resist," said Marzook. "Are weapons only allowed for Israel and not the Palestinians?"

Asked whether Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat had the power to stop Hamas from attacking Israel, Marzook replies that the Palestinian leader speaks "in the name of Palestinians, but not in the name of all Palestinians." *AFP*

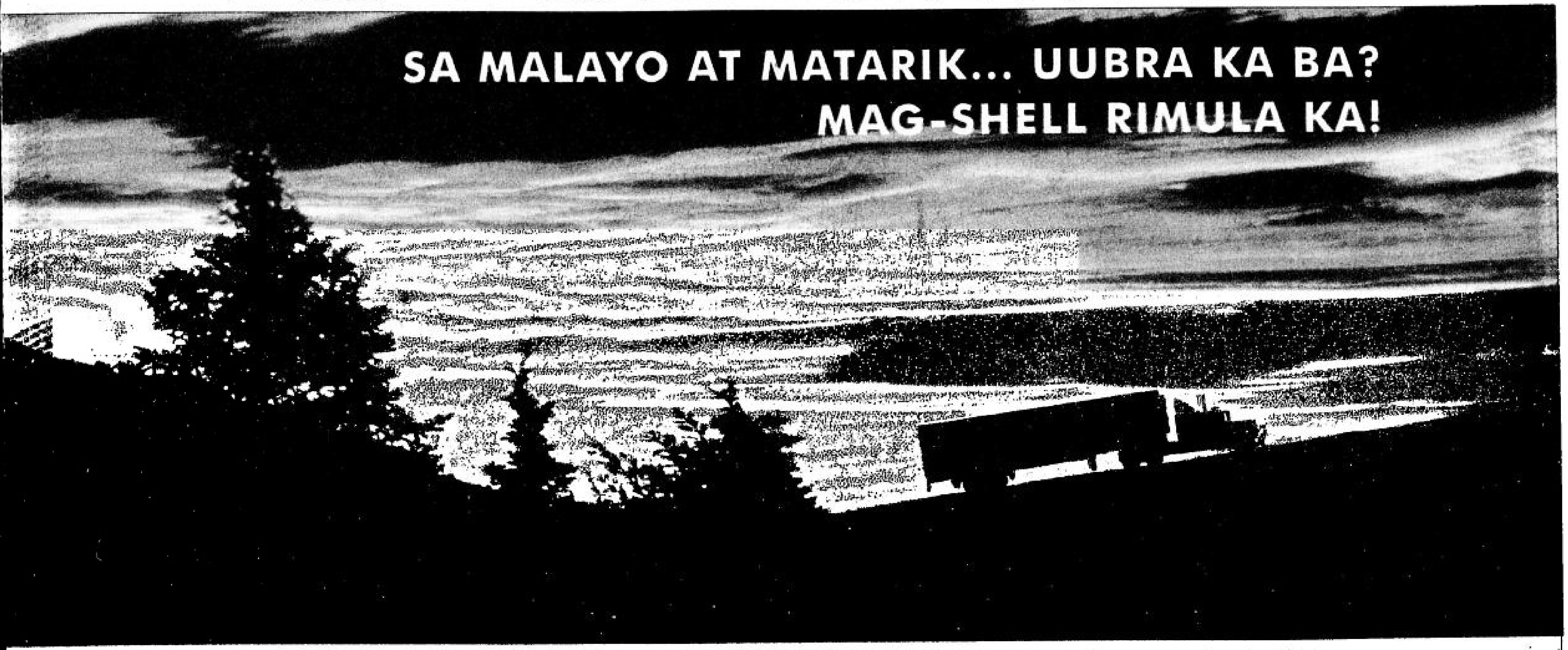


ASIA PACIFIC COLLEGE
an educational partnership of SM (Shoemart) Foundation and IBM Phils.

Bridging Academe and Industry.

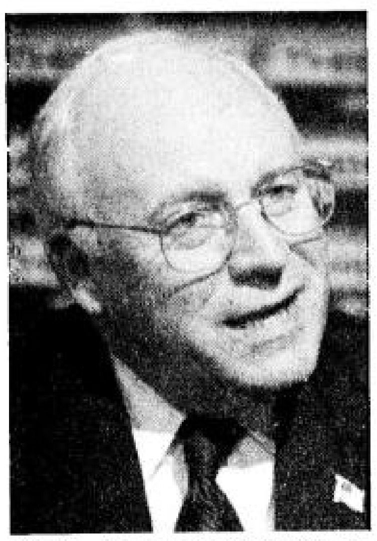
If you're serious about succeeding in today's competitive IT industry, choose the school privileged to have IBM's know-how in Information Technology and SM's expertise in the application of IT in business and financial management. With Asia Pacific College's highly-specialized courses, balanced curriculum, competent industry practitioners, and intensive internship program in some of the country's successful companies, you'll be making an intelligent choice. Contact us and find out what sets us apart.

SM IBM
B.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY with specializations in: Systems and Software Engineering • Computer Network Engineering • Computer Electronics Engineering
B.S. IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING • B.S. IN COMMERCE (IT-based) with majors in: Computer Information Systems Management • Marketing and Advertising • e-Business and Web Technology
ASIA PACIFIC COLLEGE #3 Humabon Place, Magallanes, Makati City 1232 Website: www.apc.edu.ph E-mail: apcquery@apc.edu.ph Direct Lines: (632) 852-9670/71 Trunklines: (632) 853-0201 to 05 / (632) 852-9232 loc. 201/202/203



ubok ang hatak kahit sa Baguio isabak. Kaya walang kakaba-kaba.

Cheney refuses to divulge Enron contacts



US Vice President Dick Cheney

WASHINGTON—Vice President Dick Cheney said Sunday he would rather go to court than divulge information from private interviews held in the White House with executives of the now disgraced energy giant Enron when he was formulating the administration's national energy plan.

He made it clear that he would not agree to requests by the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, to have access to documents relating to private conversations between the Bush administration and Enron executives.

"We've concluded that, in fact, we were prepared to go to court if that's what was necessary," he told Fox News Sunday.

"What I object to, and what the president's objected to, and what we've told the GAO we won't do, is make it impossible for me or future vice presidents to ever have a conversation in confidence with anybody without having, ultimately, to tell a member of Congress what we talked about and what was said," Cheney noted.

"There's no secret about what we did with respect to the task force," he said. "We talked to all kinds of people. I talked to energy companies, I talked to labor members, talked to environmentalists."

"You just cannot accept that proposition without putting a chill over the ability of the president and vice president to receive unvarnished advice," the vice president said.

The role scandal-plagued Enron executives played in the development of the federal energy plan presented last spring by the White House is under the microscope, with questions of the extent to which the company may have influenced federal policy possibly subject to federal prosecution, US Comptroller General David Walker has said.

The GAO has been denied in its repeated requests to the White House for documents produced by the energy task force headed by Cheney, himself the former head of oil giant Halliburton.

Kenneth Lay, who recently resigned as head of Enron, was among those consulted by the task force and some of the company's other top executives attended the closed-door meetings.

In interviews published Saturday, Walker threatened legal action if the documents remained under wraps.

According to the New York Times, such action would mark the first time in its history that the Congressional auditing agency sued a federal entity or federal official for information. *AFP*

Villagers press claim that US forces killed innocents

AFGHAN boys gaze at a seemingly desolate portion of their city as they stand on the ruins of a house in western Kabul Jan. 27. Afghanistan's former King, Zahir Shah, is to end 28 years of exile and return home in mid-March, his son said on Saturday, as the country's interim leader called on US forces to remain there until the al-Qaida network is totally wiped out. REUTERS

KANDAHAR—As Afghanistan's leader begins a visit to the United States, distraught villagers back home trekked here Sunday to complain to Afghan authorities that US Army Special Forces killed innocent people in a raid last week.

The delegation from the remote town of Khas Uruzgan set out just hours after Wednesday night's attack, in which Pentagon officials said about 15 people were killed, 27 captured and a large number of weapons destroyed during a raid on a Taliban arms depot north of Kandahar.

Villagers, however, claimed US forces bombed their town hall and clinic, and killed and arrested men loyal to Afghanistan's US-backed interim leader, Hamid Karzai.

"I'm here to talk to these people working for the American Army," said Zainullah, a town council member who like many Afghans uses only one name. "The people they have (captured), they are working for Hamid Karzai. If they arrest them, they should arrest me."

Karzai was expected to discuss the ongoing military campaign in his meetings with US President George W. Bush and congressional leaders, though it was not known whether he would raise the Special Forces attack.

Karzai told Afghan television he would ask that the multi-national security force guarding his government in the Afghan capital be expanded into the rest of Afghanistan. "This is the determination of the Afghan people," he said.

The visit is Karzai's first to Washington since he assumed leadership of his war-shattered nation's interim government last month. Aside from Washington, Karzai will address the UN Security Council and visit the wreckage of the World Trade Center in New York.

US Army spokesperson Maj. A.C. Roper said Sunday that the villagers' reports "are not consistent with our intelligence."

"Our soldiers are well trained. They're judicious and prudent in their use of force," Roper said. "This war is fluid. It's an ever-changing battlefield."

However, US officials have acknowledged problems in gathering reliable intelligence in a country with a tradition of shifting loyalties.

"They were not Taliban. Not one was Taliban," said Zainullah, the town councilor. "It's impossible."

Yusuf Pashtun, an aide to Kandahar Gov. Gul Agha, also said the town's government building and clinic were attacked.

Kandahar officials presented the US military with a list that villagers provided of some of the missing and have asked for confirmation of whether they were arrested, Pashtun said. *AP*

15 children in Australia camp threaten suicide

WOOMERA, Australia—Fifteen children at a detention center are threatening to commit suicide as hunger striking asylum seekers upped the ante against the Australian government Monday.

There are now hunger strikes at four of the detention centers Australia uses to hold asylum seekers while their claims are processed.

The unaccompanied children, aged between 12 and 17, informed lawyers representing them at the Woomera Detention Center of their plan late Sunday, said Robert McDonald, a member of the Woomera legal group.

"They want to get out of the facility," McDonald told reporters.

"These guys feel this is the only thing they can do to get out of the facility."

Three hunger striking children were moved from Woomera to a hospital over the weekend for "observation".

Woomera is the biggest and most isolated Australian immigration center. Formerly a rocket range, it is now being considered as a place for a nuclear waste dump.

Lawyers representing the detainees claim 370 inmates at Woomera are refusing food although the immigration department said 162 men, 14 women and five children, mostly Afghans, were taking part in the protest. *AFP*

Dalai Lama recovering from bowel infection

BOMBAY—Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, was recovering in a Bombay hospital on Monday after undergoing treatment for a bowel infection, his personal secretary said.

Doctors at Bombay's Lilavati hospital, where the 66-year-old Tibetan leader was admitted on Sunday, said he was cheerful and would soon be discharged.

The Dalai Lama's personal secretary, Tenzin Tethong, said the bowel infection that had caused the problem was now "under control."

The Dalai Lama had been attending a Buddhist festival in Bodhgaya in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, when he complained of exhaustion.

Doctors in Bodhgaya decided to send him to Patna for examination early Sunday after he said he was feeling unwell.

In Patna, the Dalai Lama, who did not speak to reporters, was seen walking to his aircraft unaided amid tight security.

He was admitted to the privately-run hospital in Bombay where senior physicians are attending on him. *AFP*

YELLOW AND BEAUTIFUL AFP

Shirley Zhou Xue from Vancouver (center), Miss Chinese International 2001, is flanked by 1st runner-up Angela Christie Bartrum from Toronto (left) and 2nd runner-up Angela Sue Ee Foo from Kuala Lumpur in the southern Chinese city of Pang Yu Jan. 27. Ms Zhou beat 20 other contestants from around the world for the title.

Many feared dead in Nigeria explosions

LAGOS—Many people were feared dead Sunday after a fire ripped through a military armory in Nigeria's main city of Lagos, sending hundreds of missiles careering into residential neighborhoods and shooting huge balls of flame into the night sky.

Plunging the largest city in black Africa into scenes reminiscent of a war zone, blasts echoed repeatedly as missiles landed up to 30 km from where the fire started.

Panicked by the explosions, hundreds of thousands of terrified city residents started to flee the area around the barracks which bore the brunt of the blasts.

"I have to go. I have to get out of here," said Francis Obi, an accountant living just across the road from the cantonment, as a sea of people poured down the roads in the area, struggling to leave.

"It is panic, total panic" said Chima Kalu, a computer technician with a media group, caught up in the crush. "The whole place is up in flames. Everything is burning."

The pandemonium was caused by the explosion shortly before dusk of the main military armory next door to the principal barracks in this city of more than 10 million people.

Shortly after 6 p.m. Sunday, a fire which started in a street market in the Ikeja district spread to the armory next door.

Minutes later, a first of two devastating blasts boomed across the city, shaking the walls and windows of office blocks.

After a 10-minute lull, a whole series of explosions rang out. Panic set in as missiles started to fly around the city.

Traffic snarled up on Lagos's freeways and bridges as people tried to work out what was going on.

A police spokesperson said he feared many people would have died in the heavily populated barracks, home to soldiers and their families, and the surrounding area.

"We do not have any death toll yet, but it is going to be bad," he said.

In a special emergency broadcast breaking into normal programming, Lagos State Governor Bola Tinubu told residents the blasts were the result of an accidental fire, not a military coup.

President Olusegun Obasanjo was safe, Tinubu said.

In the capital Abuja, an AFP correspondent said entrances and exits to the Aso Rock seat of the presidency had all been sealed.

Officials said the president was actually at his home at Otta outside Lagos at the weekend. He was expected to make a statement later, they said.

In Africa's most populous country, one with a long history of military rule, speculation had immediately turned to the idea of a possible coup, but Tinubu dismissed this. *AFP*

EXPLOSIONS rock the center of Nigeria's capital and largest city, Lagos, Jan. 27 after a reportedly accidental fire ripped through the main armory. Dozens of explosions resounded through the city and blazes lit up the night sky. AFP

Russian bases unplugged due to unpaid bills

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia—Some of Russia's most strategic military bases in the Far East had their electricity supplies cut Monday and others were facing similar shutdowns due to a heavy backlog of unpaid bills.

The Russian Pacific Fleet's northeastern headquarters in the Kamchatka peninsula's capital Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky turned dark early Monday, the head of the local energy company Kamchatenergo said.

"We had to cut off power to the Pacific Fleet's northeastern headquarters due to arrears of 195 million rubles,"($6.4 million)," Viktor Igmatulin said.

He added that following the cut, the military had temporarily found a way to reconnect its headquarters to the power grid through what he termed were illegal means, although Igmatulin failed to divulge further details.

Igmatulin stressed that Kamchatenergo technicians were about to pull the plug on them again until the company received assurances it would be paid in full.

Further south in the Vladivostok region, more military installations were facing the threat of losing their electricity supplies, local energy company Dalenergo warned.

"We will cut off power to 60 percent of airforce and air defense units in the Vladivostok area today," said a Dalenergo spokesperson, Mikhail Tsedrik.

Unlike a similar shutdown on Thursday in that area, which also affected the Pacific Fleet there, Tsedrik said that strategic installations could suffer from power cuts this time.

Last week's action resulted in a commitment by fleet chiefs to resolve their debt issue, and in Dalenergo restoring power.

However, no such agreement has been possible with airforce and air defense chiefs, Tsedrik said.

Pacific Fleet, air force and air defense arrears to Dalenergo amount to nearly 250 million rubles, the company said. *AFP*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2002 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A13

Across the NATION

Tony Bergonia, Assistant Editor

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St.,Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-16 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9936
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail:
pdiminda@dv.webling.com

Measly funds hound Narcgroup

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The economics of eradicating illegal drugs, the top national threat, weighs too heavily on the Philippine National Police's Narcotics Group (Narcgroup).

With only a P15-million budget this year and an estimated 1.5 million regular users of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) alone last year, the Narcgroup could only afford to spend P10 for each victim.

The budget problem becomes more disturbing because there are 2.5 million occasional users of shabu in the country, according to Chief Supt. Ruben Cabagnot, Narcgroup deputy director for administration.

Cabagnot noted the measly budget and its disproportion to the number of victims in an interview after he led Monday's ceremony installing Supt. Carlos Joaquin as the new Narcgroup director in Central Luzon.

"Despite the magnitude of the problem, (Narcgroup) has one of the smallest budgets in the PNP," Cabagnot said.

He said the current P15-million budget was thrice lower than the P47 million that the command received annually from 1990 to 1996.

According to him, the Narcgroup needs P50 million next year to effectively deal with the problem of illegal drugs.

He said independent surveys showed that the ages of shabu users ranged from the early teens to the late 30s. Most are men belonging to the C and D economic classes, he said.

"Those in the A and B classes are not totally exempted," he added.

Metro Manila, he said, is the "most problematic" region because most illegal drugs manufacturers, users and pushers are based in the area.

Southern Tagalog comes next because it is the regular route of big-time shipments of illegal drugs, while Central Luzon ranks third because of its proximity to Metro Manila.

While there is no factual basis yet to establish that local officials are involved in the illegal drug trade, the arrest of a mayor in Quezon last year indicated that "there may really be several politicians who are in cahoots with drug lords," Cabagnot said.

He said the arrest of Chinese in several big drug hauls last year also showed that shabu came mainly from China, especially from the southern provinces of Fujian and Hunan, where ephedra, the base of ephedrine used in processing shabu, is grown.

Shabu manufacturers in these provinces make Hong Kong and the Philippines their regular shipment destinations.

Cabagnot said the Philippines' long coastline was favorable to drug smugglers.

He said chemicals and equipment for shabu were also flown into the country, as shown in the paraphernalia seized from a shabu laboratory in San Juan, Metro Manila, on Jan. 18. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon, Eastern Luzon and Eastern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI31° Lo 20°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 23° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 17°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 20°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 20°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo19°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 20°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 20°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/01/29/02

Manulife Financial Plans

2002 Annual Awards

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Manulife Financial Plans, with barely a year and a half in operations, has indeed proven its determination to reach its goals even amidst turbulent economic times. We attribute this early achievement to the efforts of those individuals who have responded, and not merely reacted to the various challenges they are being faced with.

We pay tribute to these men and women who have demonstrated resilience and refused to accept anything but the very best. They have elevated themselves to become role models for Manulife Plans' elite corps of professional salespeople, for they have shown their strong commitment in providing financial security to our clients.

We are proud of their achievements and of the excellent work they have done for Manulife. I offer them my sincerest congratulations.

Renato A. Vergel de Dios
President & CEO,
Manulife Financial Plans

Josephine V. Gonzales
Metro 1
Lucita K. Penaga
Metro 1
Jeremy Y. Ong
Metro 1
Pagasa T. Ferrer
Metro 2
Myrna B. Mabanta
Metro 1
Ruby Q. See
Metro 2
Rosalina S. Leobrera
Metro 1
Lynette F. Fegalan
Metro 2
Crispin G. Tabirara
Metro 4
Allan G. Galagate
Metro 1
Carol Ann B. Feihl
Metro 1
Marlon B. Climaco
Metro 1
Ma. Dulce R. Rebueno
Metro 1
*NOT IN PHOTO
Ma.Teresita Q.Ramos
Metro 1
Lilian S.Veloso
Metro 1
QUALIFYING LEVEL
PRODUCERS CIRCLE
SILVER LEVEL
GOLD LEVEL
Sixto A. Cariño
Metro 4
Gemma D. Platero
Metro 2
Carmelita U. Camenforte
2nd Place
Metro 6
*Qualifying Level
Zenaida V. Dela Cruz
4th Place
Metro 6
*Silver Level
Nelia R. Sancho
1st Place
Metro 3
*Gold level
Emerlita C. Mendoza
5th Place
Metro 4
*Qualifying Level
Fausta R. Mendoza
3rd Place
Metro 4
*Qualifying Level
Dorotea C. Perez
6th Place
Metro 2
*Silver Level
TOP PEPS
Evelyn G. Natividad
7th Place
Metro 4
Jhoanne L. De Guzman
3rd Place
Metro 1
Ma. Belen F. Lizardo
2nd Place
Metro 6
Ma. Veronica O. Alday
10th Place
Metro 3
Christina M. Petallo
8th Place
Metro 3
Dennies C. Siongco
9th Place
Metro 2
*Silver Level
Teresita B. Calisay
6th Place
Metro 2
*Qualifying Level
Josephine S. P. Barcial
1st Place
Metro 4
Ricardo N. Natividad
5th Place
Metro 3
Babylyn O. Dela Ysla
4th Place
Metro 3
TOP UNIT MANAGERS
Lord Joseph N. Villanueva
4th Place
Metro 1
Ma. Lourdes R. de Jesus
3rd Place
Metro 3
*Qualifying Level
Celia L. Hernandez
1st Place
Metro 4
Fortuna D. Moreno
2nd Place
Metro 2
Maria T. Andaya
5th Place
Metro 3
TOP AGENCY MANAGERS

QUALITY BUSINESS AWARDS QUALIFIERS

PEPS

Dorotea C. Perez, Oscar S. Lenon, Ruby Q. See, Lynette F. Fegalan, Zarah R. Laraño, Carmelita U. Camenforte, Zenaida V. De la Cruz, Nelia M. Sullera, Emerlita C. Mendoza, Sixto A. Cariño, Jeremy Y. Ong, Fausta R. Mendoza

UNIT MANAGERS

Maria Belen F. Lizardo, Babylyn O. Dela Ysla, Josephine S. Barcial, Ricardo N. Natividad, Teresita B: Calisay

AGENCY MANAGERS

Marites N. Florentino, Marcelina T. Cruz, Carol Ann B. Feihl, Celia L. Hernandez, Fortuna D. Moreno, Malaya Gemma D. Platero, Virginia F. Evasco

Manulife Financial Plans
"Helping you make better financial decisions"

15/F Equitable Bank Tower
8751 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Philippines
Tel. (632)886-0620 to 34 Fax 886-0429
http://www.manulife.com
e-mail: phcustsrv_plans@manulife.com

ROUNDUP

6 rebels yield

CAMP MELCHOR DE LA CRUZ, Isabela—Six New People's Army rebels surrendered to soldiers at Barangay Apatan in Pinukpuk, Kalinga, on Saturday. Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, 5th Infantry Division commander, said the six rebels belonging to the Samahang Yunit Kilusang Masa of the Kalinga Front Committee received P36,000 for surrendering two M-16 rifles. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Fisheries scholars

BAGUIO CITY—The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources are searching for students who can be part of the 17th batch of fisheries scholars for next school year. Applicants should not be above 20 years old, among the top graduates of their high school class and have not earned any units in college. Application forms are available at the BFAR-CAR regional office. Deadline for submission of applications is Feb. 23. ***PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Rebel suspect slain

TACLOBAN CITY—A suspected communist rebel was killed during Saturday's clash with Army soldiers in an upland village in Silago, Southern Leyte. The body of the alleged member of the New People's Army was brought to the Silago municipal hall for identification, said Capt. Gilbert Roy Ruiz, information officer of the 8th Infantry Division based in Camp Lucban, Samar. Ruiz said the fatality was abandoned by his eight companions who fled in different directions following a 30-minute clash with soldiers of the Army's 43rd Infantry Battalion in Barangay Imelda, Silago. ***Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

3 girls captured

TACLOBAN CITY—A 13-year-old girl was wounded and two other girls were captured when the 43rd Infantry Battalion raided a suspected rebel camp in Abuyog town. One of the girls was wounded in the neck during a clash between soldiers and alleged New People's Army members in Barangay Old Taligue. She was brought to the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center here. She and her 15-year-old companion were later turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, which returned them to their parents. The other girl escaped. ***Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Barangay fees

NAGA CITY—The city government has prohibited barangay councils from collecting clearance fees from old business firms based on an opinion from the Department of Finance. City treasurer Jesus Calleja Jr. said the fees applied only on newly established businesses. But Julian Lavadia Jr., president of the Liga ng mga Barangay, said that under the Local Government Code, barangay governments were allowed to collect fees within their areas of jurisdiction. Lavadia said his village stood to lose at least P100,000 this year because of the ban. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI southern Luzon Bureau***

Justice for cop

DARAGA, Albay—Grieving friends, relatives and colleagues of a policeman who was killed by communist rebels turned the funeral procession into an indignation rally. SPO2 Domingo Mabini, 46, was killed allegedly by at least two New People's Army hit men near his lumberyard, a few hundred meters from the police station here, on Jan. 17. The mourners, including uniformed police officers led by Chief Insp. Cenesius Molto, bore placards seeking justice for the slain lawman and an end to bloodshed. They burned an NPA flag. ***Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Body parts found

TANAUAN CITY—Police authorities are hunting down the killers of a driver whose severed body parts were found on Thursday in a creek in Barangay Ambulong here. Supt. Rolando Lorenzom, provincial police director, said the victim, Rosalino Pasigan, 44, a jeepney driver of Barangay Tumaway here, had been reported missing since Monday. Parts of Pesigan's body, which was chopped and burned, were found inside two sacks in the creek. ***Mel Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

NBI tags suspect in Legazpi killing

By Roly Embile and Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation in Naga City yesterday confirmed that it already had a suspect in the killing of a son-in-law of Sen. Blas Ople based on witnesses' accounts.

However, Medardo de Lemos, NBI acting regional director, declined to reveal the suspect's identity in an interview with Legazpi-based radio station dzGE, saying this would jeopardize bureau operations.

The NBI office here said it was also investigating the death of Arthur Meliton San Jose, following an appeal from President Macapagal-Arroyo and Ople.

San Jose's body was found inside a room at the Magayon Hotel here on Jan. 22.

Agent Marlon Lanuza of NBI-Legazpi said his team, led by Jose Doloiras, was already deep into the probe.

"In fact, on the day (Jan. 23) that we determined the identity of the victim, we started our own investigation, realizing that it's a high-profile case," he said.

Lanuza said the city police had initially made some findings, but that his team could not rely entirely on the police investigation.

The agent said some of the probable suspects, like several hotel personnel, would be subjected to lie-detector tests.

His friends in Naga said San Jose might know the identities of his assailants.

Lawyer Mario General, one of the victim's friends whom he last talked with, said San Jose had told them that he had a dinner date in Legazpi but rejected the offer of a friend to take him to the bus terminal.

The refusal was unusual for San Jose, General said.

He said San Jose left his office at about 4:30 p.m. without bringing anything with him and told Barrameda that he would be back and just see him the next morning.

The Legazpi police denied that it did anything irregular in the investigation of the murder.

Supt. Romeo Mapalo, city police chief, said the police teams sent to the crime scene did a thorough job. The teams included specialists from the Regional Crime Laboratory, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and government prosecutor Oscar Cadag.

"They could not be accused of haste in doing their respective jobs," Mapalo said.

He said the investigation included the gathering of evidence and taking photographs of the scene. The probers, he said, allowed the hotel personnel to clean up the bloodied room and hall.

He said an autopsy of the victim's body was made at around 6:30 p.m. by Dr. Modesto Capuno, chief of the city health office, four hours after it was taken from the hotel room at around 2:30 p.m.

Mapalo, however, did not explain why he did not immediately inform the San Jose family about the incident and asked permission for an autopsy after establishing the victim's identity and other circumstances.

Members of the victim's family had earlier said they found the police investigation report unusual and confusing.

Mapalo said that aside from the hotel personnel whom they have questioned, several suspects had yet to be investigated.

Among them is a male caretaker of a 14-hectare piece of land in Barangay Homapon here and a person invited to his room when he checked in on Jan. 22.

American faces more rape charges

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The provincial prosecutor's office has recommended the filing of 22 more counts of rape against an American before the regional trial court of Kabankalan City.

First Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Elmira Maglasang recommended the filing of new rape charges against Victor Pearson after reviewing the resolution on the complaint, according to private prosecutor Rowena Guanzon.

The victim, a 15-year-old former housemaid of Pearson, is the third young woman to file a complaint against the American.

Already, 15 counts of rape charges are now pending against Pearson, 51, a former bomb disposal expert in the US Marines, who took up residence in Ilog, Negros Occidental, two years ago.

Pearson was arrested at his house in Barangay Andulauan, Ilog, late last year on complaints of multiple rape.

He was initially charged with two counts of rape by another 15-year-old. The case is pending before the Kabankalan RTC.

A second complainant, also a young woman who worked as maid in Pearson's house, filed 13 counts of rape against him before the prosecutor's office.

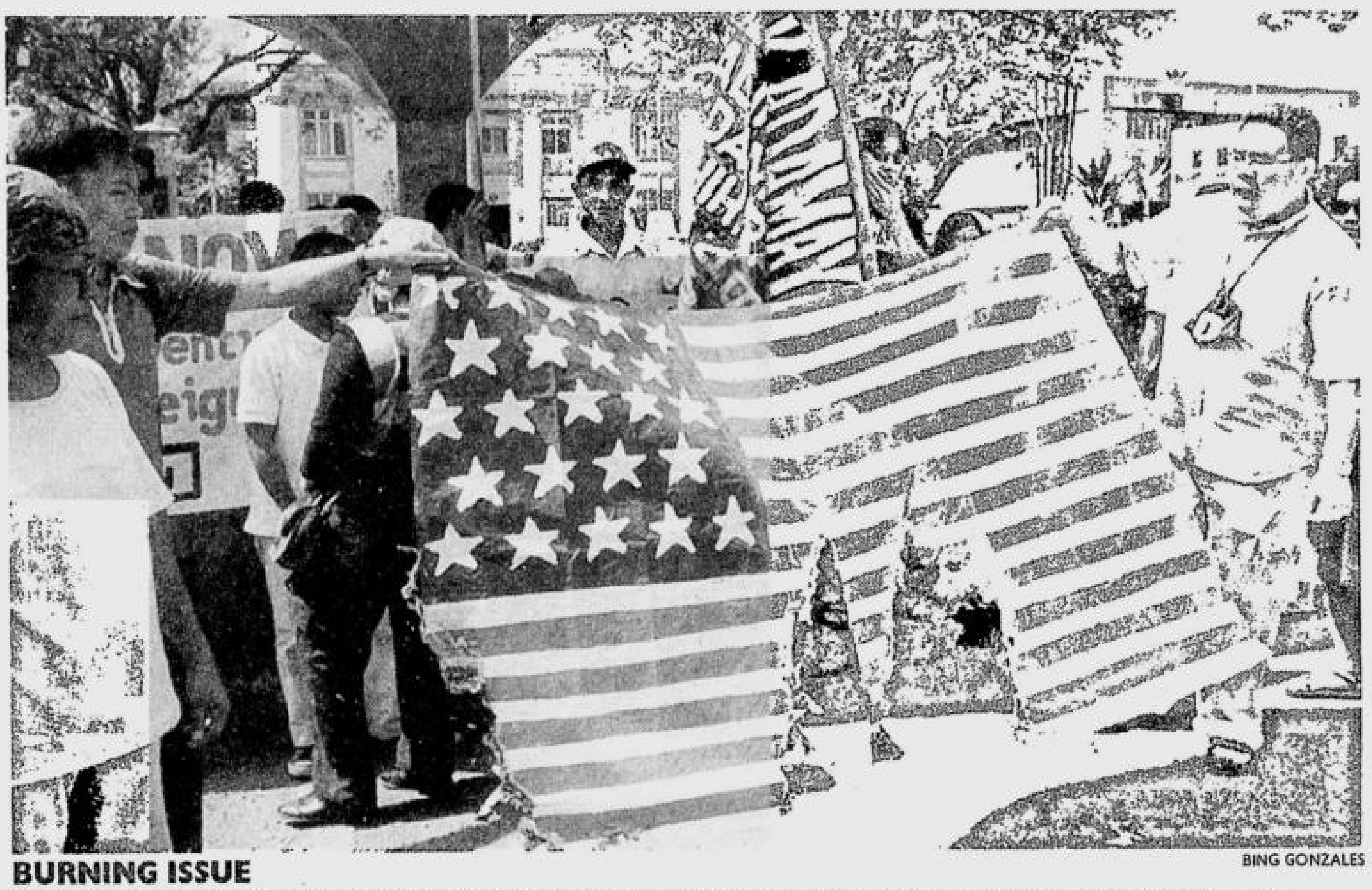
The third complainant said Pearson sexually assaulted her 22 times from January to June and in August last year.

Pearson did not present any evidence during the preliminary investigation, Maglasang said.

In her resolution, the prosecutor said she believed that the complainant was telling the truth about what happened on the dates mentioned.

Guanzon said more rape complaints would be filed against Pearson before the prosecutor's office next week.

Pearson, who is detained at the provincial jail here, is expected to face more than 75 cases of rape.



BING GONZALES

BURNING ISSUE
Militants burn an American flag during a rally in Davao City on Friday against the deployment of US soldiers in Mindanao.

Students condemn killing, declare 'Black Monday'

DAVAO CITY—Thousands of college students wore black and lighted candles as they condemned the killing of 20-year-old Sheila Mar Celerinos inside a classroom at the University of Mindanao on Thursday.

Yesterday was declared Black Monday as students, led by the University of Mindanao Supreme Student Council (UMSSC), called on authorities to immediately solve the case.

Council president Leonel Andoyo said the killing inside a university classroom was the first to happen in the country. "This should be the last," he said.

He called on all students here and in other places to join them in their fight against campus violence.

Andoyo said the two security guards who were detailed at the time of the killing should be investigated.

"Once proven to have committed some lapses, the UMSSC will recommend the replacement of the security agency employed by the university," he said.

Chief Insp. Leonardo Felonia, head of the San Pedro police station, said three witnesses had already singled out a suspect.

But he said the suspect, whom he refused to identify, could not yet be arrested as more pieces of evidence were still being gathered against him.

Members of the Movement for the Advancement of Student Power (MASP) have been staging rallies outside the university's main campus on Bolton Street here.

The MASP has also initiated a fund-raising drive for the victim's family. School officials are also extending financial, moral and material support to the victim's family.

A scholarship was granted to the victim's only sister, Claire, a college sophomore at the UM.

The Celerinos also asked the university to pay for the check-up and hospitalization of the victim's mother.

Celerinos, 20, was a candidate for cum laude. ***Anthony S. Allada and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Guiguinto church burned; police finding questioned

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan—Residents and church workers in this town believed that a drug-crazed parishioner was responsible for the Thursday fire that gutted portions of the parish church here.

The fire struck only two days after the town celebrated its 85th founding anniversary and the feast of its patron saint, San Ildefonso.

Supt. Absalon Zipagan, provincial fire officer, said investigation showed that the fire was caused by faulty electrical wiring and started at the sacristy.

But church workers and residents said a parishioner who offered the unusual gifts of liquor and cigarettes during the Mass could have burned the church.

The church helpers said they found a basket containing two bottles of gin and several packs of cigarettes when they cleaned the church after the fire. The basket was mixed with other gifts received during the Mass.

The basket containing the liquor and cigarettes were turned over to the police.

Church workers and residents said the fire could have started in a room where the clothes of the church's images were kept and not at the sacristy as investigators claimed.

Theresa Capulong, whose store is in front of the church, said she noticed the fire at 4:15 a.m.

A church helper said she was sure that they did not leave any lighted candle inside the church that could have started the fire. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

LEADERSHIP CRISIS

Mayoral poll recount pressed

KABACAN, Cotabato—Supporters of this town's mayor who was recently stripped of his position have urged the Commission on Elections to order a recount of votes in the precincts that were set aside in favor of his rival.

The Comelec had earlier said the results of the mayoral elections involving Wilfredo Bataga and his rival, Luz Tan, in 72 precincts were rigged.

Local provincial executives also wanted a recount.

In a separate statement, the League of Mayors and Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said the recount would once and for all clear the issues that resulted in the leadership crisis here.

Jun Iraya, speaking for Bataga's supporters, vowed to bar Tan's assumption into office if the Comelec failed to review its decision proclaiming Tan winner in the May 14 elections.

The board of canvassers earlier proclaimed Bataga after results showed that he got 11,444 votes against Tan's 5,633.

However, Tan's lawyers filed a pre-proclamation case and argued that Bataga's victory was fraudulent.

Tan's camp succeeded in convincing the poll body to nullify all the votes garnered by the mayoral bets in the 72 precincts. This has reversed Bataga's lead in favor of Tan.

Piñol said in a petition filed before Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo that he wanted the truth to prevail.

He said he could have supported Tan in this election controversy because they belonged to the same party, Lakas-NUCD.

"I simply cannot betray the people of Kabacan . . . I cannot allow an injustice to be perpetrated against anyone of them," he said.

The Mayors' League of North Cotabato, chaired by Carmen Mayor Rogelio Taliño, supported Piñol's appeal.

"If, indeed, she won the election, we will find out by opening the questionable ballot boxes and have them recounted before the eyes of the people," Taliño said. ***Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

UP marine laboratory propagates giant clams

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BOLINAO, Pangasinan—Scientists from the Bolinao marine laboratory (BML) of the University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute (UPMSI) have successfully regenerated different species of the endangered giant clam.

Nemesio Montaño, UPMSI deputy director, said thousands of giant clams (1-2 years old) from the BML have been seeded in the coral line areas of Samar; Subic Bay; Hundred Islands National Park in Alaminos, Pangasinan; Zambales; Corregidor; Cagayan de Oro City; and Batangas.

The giant clams are listed as endangered or threatened by the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species.

Stocks are also being sent to Japan for experimental and genetic studies, while juvenile clams are sent to the Silliman University in Dumaguete City.

The number of clams given to the recipients, who have to handle transport expenses, depends on how many they have asked for.

The BML breeds four endangered species of the giant clams—*Tridacna gigas*, *Tridacna derasa*, *Hippopus porcellanus* and *Tridacna crocea*.

Westly Rosario, head of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources research center here, said all four species had been listed in the Fisheries Code of the Philippines as banned for using, gathering, selling, transporting and possessing.

Katrina Villamor, a BML research assistant, said the population of the giant clams was already depleted in the early 1980s due to over-harvesting.

The *Tridacna gigas*, the biggest of the species, can grow up to five feet in diameter. The *Tridacna derasa* and the *Hippopus porcellanus* are collected mainly for their shells.

"The shells of *gigas* and *derasa* clams are made into tiles; while the shells of the *porcellanus*, which is commonly known as China clam, are made into lamps," Villamor said.

The *Tridacna crocea*, on the other hand, grows up to 15 centimeters and is valued for its meat, especially by the Chinese. The shells are also used to decorate aquariums.

Villamor said the BFAR used to allow the trading of the *crocea*. But the harvest was faster than the species' rate of replenishment and its population was again threatened.

The BML started the giant clam project in 1985, importing juvenile clams (year-olds and 10-20 centimeters in diameter) from Australia and the Solomon Islands.

The UPMSI, a leading marine research institution in Southeast Asia, surveyed the coral areas of the Philippines but found no giant clam.

"The species were already considered extinct in the country, but there could have been a time that they thrived in the Bolinao waters because of fossilized shells dug up in the mountains," Villamor said.

The juveniles were grown in the laboratory and brought to the ocean nursery near the Silaqui Island here.

Ten years later or in 1995, the brood stock started laying eggs but only at the laboratory.

"We bring them to the laboratory when it is egg-laying time in April and May. They are artificially induced, through chemicals, for them to release the eggs," Villamor said.

After three or four months, the little clams, measuring about 10 centimeters, are brought to the sea but in cages. Villamor estimated the stocks in the wild at 150,000.

Antique road construction resumes amid tight security

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—Construction of a road project in this province will resume this month under tight security against threats of attacks from communist rebels.

F.F. Cruz & Co. Inc. will resume work on the 44-kilometer concrete road from Culasi, Antique, to Nabas, Aklan, according to Supt. Ranier Idio, acting police provincial director.

The plan to resume work came almost two months after the construction firm suspended operations for fear that the communist New People's Army might make good its threat to burn its equipment for failing to pay "revolutionary taxes."

Idio said the threats remained but will be significantly reduced with the deployment of troops and the implementation of tight security measures.

Police and military authorities will deploy government troops to ensure the safety of company personnel and equipment after Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong sought their assistance in completing the project.

In separate directives, Director Ricardo de Leon, chief of the PNP Directorate for Operations, and Brig. Gen. Efren Abu, AFP deputy chief of staff for operations, directed their respective units in the Visayas to secure the project.

Teams from the PNP 1st Mobile Group, 32nd Reconnaissance Company of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division and Charlie Company of the 12th Infantry Battalion will be deployed at the construction site and the motor pool.

Government troops will also patrol areas near the site.

Implementation of the P646-million project of the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Asian Development Bank started in March 2000. The project was expected to be finished in September 2003.

F.F. Cruz ceased operations after NPA rebels sent a letter last year, threatening to burn its equipment if it failed to pay "taxes" by Nov. 28.

Last Sept. 9, four heavily armed rebels burned a backhoe and a dump truck at the company's quarry site at Purok 3, Barangay Nauhon, Sebaste town, 96 km north of here. Damage was placed at P7 million.

It was the first reported rebel attack on private firms in Panay in recent years.

In a statement sent to media outlets in Iloilo City, Concha Araneta, spokesperson of the communist-led National Democratic Front in Panay, said the company was "punished" for failing to pay "revolutionary taxes."

Idio said the rebels were demanding P6 million or 10 percent of the total project cost.

Araneta said the rebels were not against the construction of the road and were willing to negotiate with the firm.

The company, however, decided to stop operations for fear of the safety of its 300 personnel and equipment.

George Estrada, assistant project manager, said in a phone interview that the threats had demoralized their personnel.

'Smile' returning to Naga

NAGA CITY—A team of Filipino and American doctors under "Operation Smile," a charity work of a foundation of the same name, is coming to this city to operate on 250 patients suffering from cleft palate and harelips.

The team will arrive on Feb. 21 and will be staying until March 21.

Initiated by American doctor Bill Maggie, the mission has conducted several corrective operations on hundreds of Filipinos in various parts of the country over the past 20 years.

Dr. Sonny Rañola, city councilor and member of the organizing committee, said Operation Smile's return to Naga would be in celebration of its 20-year milestone in charity work for the poor in several countries.

All operations will be done at the Bicol Medical Center here.

Ranola said the organizers were raising at least P250,000 for the accommodations of the visiting medical specialists.

All medical services and medicines will be given free, he said. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

In Celebration of 2 Years of Genetic Quality Education in the Philippines.

We are giving you...
Study All You Can !
Enroll as many courses as you can for only P 3,800.00*

- Professional Desktop Publisher
- Professional StarOffice User
- Professional Web Page Developer
- IT Power 2002
- Cyber Starter
- Short Courses:
  Windows 98/2000, Unix/Linux, Word 97/2000, Excel 97/2000, Access 97/2000, PowerPoint 97/2000, Program Logic Formulation, Visual Basic, Advanced Visual Basic, Visual Foxpro, Visual C++, C-Programming - Basic/Advanced, CorelDraw, Adobe PageMaker, Adobe Photoshop, Macromedia Flash - Basic/Advanced, E-Commerce Concepts, HTML, JavaScript, Macromedia Dreamweaver, PERL, CGI, PC Troubleshooting, Hardware Systems Design

GENETIC Computer I·N·S·T·I·T·U·T·E
Where Great Careers Begin
http://www.genetic.edu.ph
info@genetic.com.ph

METRO MANILA CENTERS:
QUEZON CITY: 415-6592 OR 95 * 722-0549
BINONDO: 242-5657 * 247-0932 * 242-5216
ESPAÑA: 731-1303 * 731-9501 * 731-9290
SHAW: 535-1026 TO 29
NORTH EDSA: 374-6601 TO 03
ORTIGAS: 631-5494 * 634-44-13
BANAWE: 412-9378 TO 79 * 363-4181
MAKATI: 895-3304 * 895-2303
CAINTA: 249-0898 * 249-0901

PROVINCIAL CENTERS:
DAVAO: (082) 224-4643 TO 44 * (082) 300-2760
CEBU: (032) 234-1603 * (032) 234-1605
BATANGAS CITY: SOON TO OPEN!

Singapore - based IT Training School Now in 37 Countries
*conditions apply.
Promo Period: January 20 - February 17, 2002

WE GIVE YOU THE BEST ESCORTED EUROPE TOURS IN THE WORLD

TT TRAFALGAR Tours
The World's Best Selling First Class Escorted Tours

USD 897 per adult
- economy class Airfare in any Europe on line flight via SQ
- 2 nights Hotel Stay in Europe with breakfast and Airport transfer in London.
- 1 night Hotel Stay in Singapore with Airport transfer

AUSTRIA • BELGIUM • DENMARK • ENGLAND • EGYPT • FINLAND • FRANCE • GERMANY • GREECE • HUNGARY • IRELAND • ISRAEL • ITALY • LIECHTENSTEIN • LUXEMBOURG • MONACO • MOROCCO • NETHERLANDS • NORWAY • POLAND • PORTUGAL • RUSSIA • SCOTLAND • SPAIN • SWEDEN • SWITZERLAND • TURKEY • WALES

For further inquiries, call or visit your travel agent or:
IATA pan·pacific TRAVEL CORPORATION PTAA TO-243-2000
Ermita: Pacific Place Building, 539 Arquiza St., Ermita, Manila Tels.: 536-1265, 536-1267, 523-1990
Makati: L/G I Herrera Tower, 98 Herrera cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City Tels: 810-8551 to 56
Binondo: 353 Nueva Street, Binondo Tel: 243-6666 connecting all departments Fax: 244-0311
Cebu: Diplomat Hotel, SUITE 6, 90 F. Ramos Street, Cebu City Tels: 254-0343, 254-0347, 254-0349
E-mail pptctraftour@nwave.net Webpage www.panpacifictravelcorp.com

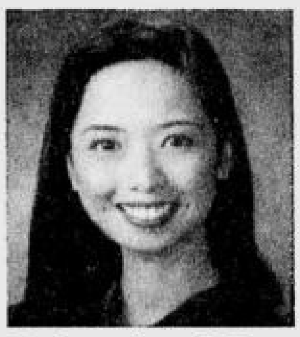
UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST
PHILIPPINES

Congratulates

the UE topnotchers and other successful examinees in the December 2001 Dentist Licensure Examinations. As certified by the Professional Regulation Commission the following UE examinees garnered the rank indicated:

Dr. Lorra M. Joson
Seventh Place

Dr. Rommel C. Macapagal
Twelfth Place



Dr. Laarni Irene Q. Lugue
Thirteenth Place

Dr. Rhina M. Marquez
Fourteenth Place

Dr. Camid U. Gandamra Jr.
Eighteenth Place

Dr. Iris V. Macasling
Eighteenth Place

Other Successful UE Examinees

Rheena M. Abalos, Maria L. Adiong Jr., Eleanor A. Akilit, Zoe Nepheline Cielo N. Albrando, Maricel C. Allauigan, Myla D. Ambrosio, Vladys F. Ambuyoc, Ma. Theresa D. Angeles, Marichel P. Aspi, Troy Joseph J. Atienza, Caroline D. Ayahao, Ma. Farah A. Balinado, Ma. Liza G. Ballesteros, Raquel V. Baracinas, Maria Virginia M. Barlisan, Maria Asuncion O. Belchez Jr., Nagy B. Bermundo, Ma. Flordeliz B. Bocobo, Isselle M. Bonagua. Michelle Karen L. Bunuan, Raymund R. Caballero, Arlene I. Cabanela, Sheila G. Cacayuran, Rhoelyn B. Calderon, Ma. Dolor K. Calma, Anna Valerie B. Camaclang, Rowena Q. Campita, Kristine Noelle M. Carilo, Jenny Rose G. Carpio, Katrina R. Chavez, Emelita B. Contreras, Edwin B. Cruz, Loyda O. Cruz, Maribel S. De Chavez, Abigail T. Delleva, Flor M. Delos Santos, Rita Anne M. Dizon, Ma. Basilia C. Ebdane, Dante B. Edrada. Rina Christine A. Esquieres, Emmilie Joy O. Estabillo, Jeric A. Evangelista, Eliezer Matt Y. Fajardo IV, Mary Jenalyn M. Famorca, Jean-Jean A. Fernandez, Charyl G. Galero, Angeline J. Go, Dayang Dayang M. Gonzales, Jovannie Marie G. Hernandez, Caroline R. Ignacio, Mary Ann M. Jacinto, Tania G. Javier, Jennifer Ann S. Joson, Maria Christina R. Kiat, Jee-Jean R. Laresma, Cherry Jane B. Leonor, Mary Grace L. Libunao, Benigno T. Lorenzo Jr. Mary Leah T. Lorenzo, Marilene S. Macalalag, Donalyne A. Macaraig, Catherine C. Magallon, Ferdinand J. Maghari, Jose Dennis C. Manalili, Ana Michelle M. Manrique, Rolando R. Mondala Jr., Rochelle A. Munsayac, Barbra C. Nero, Jemly R. Nicolas, Noreen B. Nocedal, Jesusa P. Ocampo, Marie Antoinette D. Orejudos, Isabelita U. Ortiz, Raymund N. Pisuena, Jessely S. Pullantes, Mary Grace G. Quintana, Rhoda E. Ramores, Evangeline Joy U. Ramos. Joaquin Edward G. Rosero, Mary Blanche C. Rosero, Marilen G. Roy, Grace S. Samaniego, Joan H. San Miguel, Angelica C. Savellano, Mary Katherine H. Sta. Agueda, Ruby Lourdes R. Tablang, Jennylind N. Tagpis, Jose Gerard K. Tan, Katherine Ivy F. Tan, Juvy O. Tañamor, Haidee G. Tarun, Leah A. Tayam, Bert Allan Q. Tejada, Cresencia Marie S. Tejero, Jennifer B. Trinidad, Cristina B. Vergara, Edward S. Victoria, Yanissa O. Yalung.

Oath-Taking

The oath-taking for all new dentists will be on Tuesday, January 29, 1:00 p.m., at the Manila Midtown Hotel in Ermita, Manila.

UE passing percentage – 82%

National passing percentage – 34%

Testimonial Dinner

The testimonial dinner, honoring the UE topnotchers, board passers and the UE College of Dentistry faculty, will be on Tuesday, January 29, 7:00 p.m. at the Century Park Hotel in Malate, Manila.

SPORTS

Al S. Mendoza, Editor ■ Edwin M. Villanueva, Assistant Editor

Moses, Moravcova earn 'swim' money

BERLIN —American Ed Moses and Slovakia's Martina Moravcova on Sunday were selected as the best season World Cup performers. Moses earned $ 50,000 after breaking five world records. Maravcova earned the same money for lowering American Jenny Thompson's two-year-old 100 meter butterfly mark by one-hundredths of a second to 56. 55 on Saturday.

EARLY TRAINING

I want Asiad bets now–Buhain

BUHAIN

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CHAIR Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission buckled down to work yesterday, asking the Philippine Olympic Committee to name the core of Team Philippines to the September Busan Asian Games.

After getting the baton of leadership from Butch Tuason, his predecessor, Buhain said the qualified athletes for the Asiad should start training immediately.

"The rest who will qualify through various international competitions can join Team Philippines later on," he said.

The criteria for automatic membership to the Asiad campaign is the gold medal in the last SEA Games and bronze medal in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad.

Buhain said there is an urgent need to start the preparation early and not let monetary constraints affect the national athletes.

"It's not embarrassing to ask for support from the private sector and I'm open to having a marketing blitz in order to help finance international campaigns like the coming Asian Games," said Buhain.

POC secretary general Romy Ribaño said there are already 43 athletes–all Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games gold winners–who made the cut according to the Task Force Asian Games criteria. However the qualifiers need to sustain their records until September.

Ribaño added that the national sports associations have until July to submit their entries.

Said Buhain: "Let the sports leaders do the politics and let athletes do the training."

He also stressed the importance of "isolating and insulating" the athletes from the controversies in Philippine sports.

Accompanied by his wife, Rep. Aileen Ermita-Buhain, child and parents, Buhain also asked for unity from the national athletes, PSC employees and sports officials during a brief speech on his first day in office.

Present during the rites were POC president Celso Dayrit and NSA heads like Go Teng Kok of athletics, Becky Garcia of dancesports and Hector Navasero of baseball.

POC turns down Go bid 'to talk'

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee turned down the request of athletics boss Go Teng Kok to address the general assembly tomorrow (Wednesday) regarding the two cases filed against him through the ethics commission.

Both POC president Celso Dayrit and secretary general Romy Ribaño said the issues are "too personal" and ought to be discussed in the ethics commission.

Ribaño suggested that Go talk with ethics commission chair Rene Cruz and his accuser Freddie Jalasco "to clear things out" regarding his alleged links with a convicted criminal and his alleged ungentlemanly act against a fellow national sports association president.

"It doesn't have to reach the POC general assembly, because I really think they can still resolve the matter in the ethics committee," said Ribaño. "In fact, I think they can just discuss it privately so the ethics committee need not investigate anymore. It's a private matter between Jalasco and Go."

But Go countered:"If they really think that it's a very personal matter, why do they still allow Gen. Cruz to pursue the case in the ethics commission?"

The Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president said he wanted to put the issue to rest and "move on to other important matters."

But Ribaño said if he would allow Go to take the stand, the POC would be giving a precedent "to other NSAs to air personal matters before the general assembly."

Go maintained that "when they sent me two letters asking explanations why I allegedly dragged Philippine sports to scandals, the general assembly knew all about it. So it's only fair that I explain my side and prove my innocence to the rest of the POC family and not just to a handful of people in the ethics commission."

Osaka nears finals

CEBU CITY–Osaka Iridology got the needed breaks in the final quarter to ward off Salazar Institute of Technology, 89-74, yesterday in the Cebu Basketball league Sinulog Open at the University of San Carlos gym here.

Bruce Dacia scored 25 points as he triggered the Iridologists' breakaway down the stretch to improve their chances to the finals.

Actually, Osaka had a hard time shaking off the SIT Skyblazers who stuck close, 41-43, at the half and 62-66 after three quarters until Dacia collaborated with Dante Elim and Silver Villafuerte for the deciding breakaway.

76ers trounce Lakers

PHILADELPHIA— Allen Iverson scored 29 points Sunday as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Los Angeles Lakers, 93-87, in a rematch of last season's NBA Finals.

The loss left the Lakers at 29-12, meaning Dallas Mavericks coach Don Nelson will guide the West when the NBA All-Star game is held at the First Union Center in two weeks. The Mavericks are 32-12.

Byron Scott of New Jersey will coach the East. The Nets lead the conference with a 29-14 record.

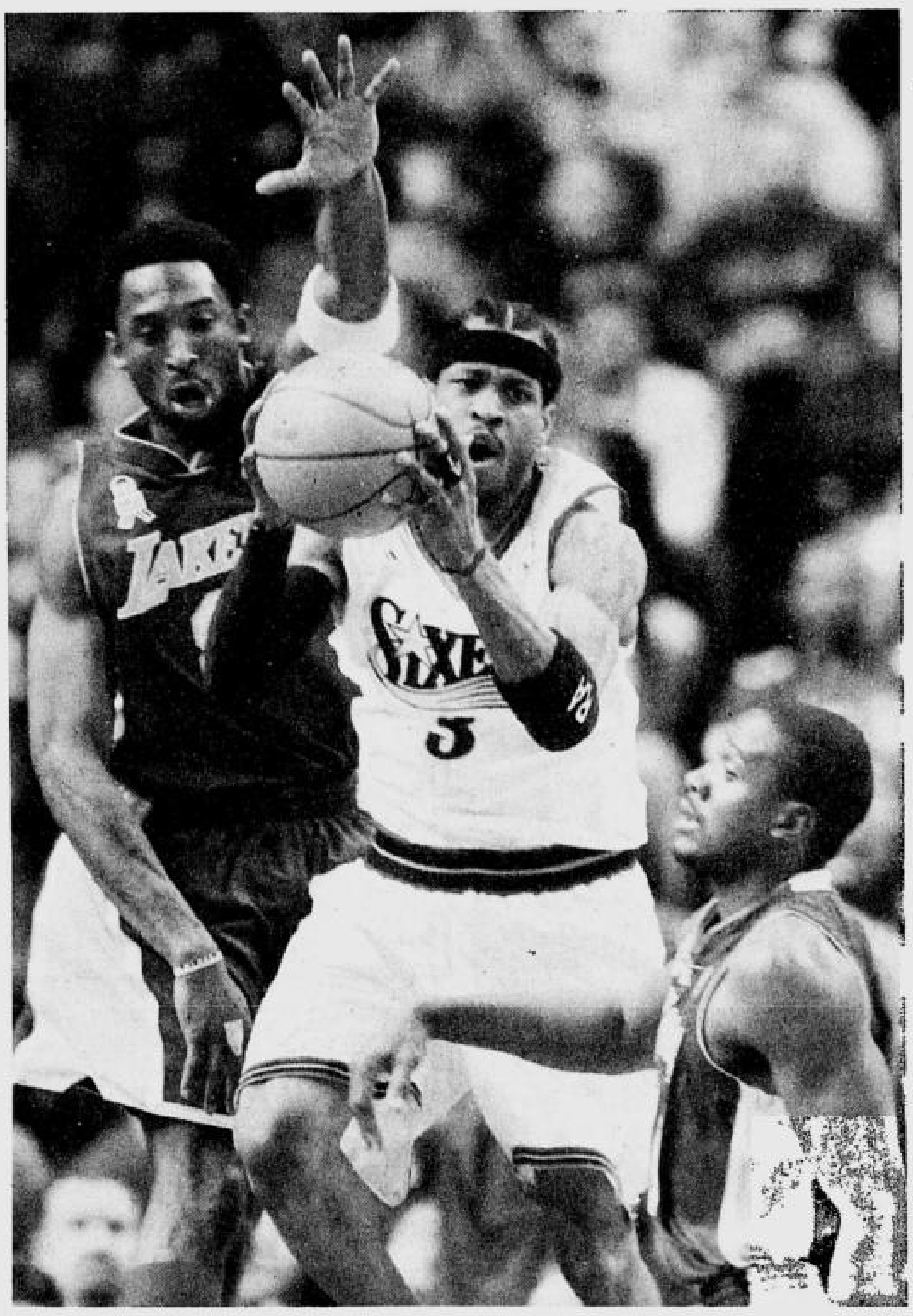
Derrick Coleman had 18 points and 12 rebounds and Dikembe Mutombo added 13 points and 18 rebounds for Philadelphia, which outscored Los Angeles, 30-20, in the fourth quarter after trailing for much of the first three quarters.

Iverson scored 14 points in the fourth but failed to reach 30 for the first time in eight games. Matt Harpring added 14 points, and Eric Snow had 10 points and 10 assists.

O'Neal had 26, and Kobe Bryant scored 25 for the Lakers, who might have been thrown off by the noon EST starting time. *AP*

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, University of the Philippines tallied 427 points while Colegio San Agustin had 364 to rule their respective divisions in the Philippine Junior Golf Development Association-Milo national inter-schools team championship at Fort Bonifacio. Also today in 1992, the Red Team of Iñigo Zobel beat the White Team, 8-5, to capture the Jacobo Zobel Cup at the Manila Polo Club in Makati.



ALLEN Iverson of Philadelphila (with ball) is one step ahead of Kobe Bryant (in black jersey) of Los Angeles during their NBA game yesterday in Philadelphia. At right is Iverson's teammate Lindsey Hunter. Iverson fired 29 points in powering the Sixers to a 93-87 victory over the Lakers. In the other game, Toronto beat Orlando, 106-97. REUTERS

Jong might lose Clay, 2 others

By June Navarro

ASIAN Games national coach Jong Uichico yesterday formed the two teams which will see action in the first conference of the 2002 PBA season but feared Fil-Americans Chris Clay, Jeffrey Flowers and Jimmy Alapag won't be able to play due to citizenship problems.

"I'm giving them (Clay, Flowers and Alapag) until next week to secure their Department of Justice confirmation documents. Otherwise, I'll be forced to sit them out to give more playing time to the other aspirants," said Uichico.

Clay, Flowers and Alapag are with Team A along with Fil-foreign cagers Asi Taulava, Eric Menk, Ali Peek, Chris Jackson and Rafi Reavis.

They are with homegrown talents Edward Juinio, Dennis Espino, Olsen Racela, Patrick Fran, Kenneth Duremdes, Dondon Hontiveros and Chris Calaguio.

Team B is composed of Danny Ildefonso, Rommel Adducul, Johnny Abarrientos, Jeffrey Cariaso, Marlou Aquino, Don Camaso, Boyet Fernandez, Renren Ritualo, Danny and Andy Seigle, Noy Castillo, Rudy Hatfield, Mick Pennisi, EJ Feihl and Davonn Harp.

The two teams will compete in the PBA Commissioner's Cup beginning Feb. 10.

Uichico plans to hold twice-a-day practice: Team A in the morning and Team B in the afternoon.

"That way, we can be more specific and could handle the players more personally," said Uichico, who has Eric Altamirano of Purefoods and Barangay Ginebra's Allan Caidic in his coaching staff.

Sources said the RFM Group of Companies, which pledged to support one team in the training pool under the name of Selecta, will most likely bankroll Team A as the squad has three of its former and current players in Duremdes, Peek and Juinio.

"I tried to balance the two teams as much as possible and came up with a final lineup thinking more on where to put the injured players in the pool," said Uichico.

Racela, Duremdes, Jackson, Peek, Ildefonso and Camaso are nursing various injuries that will have them watching at the sidelines most of the time.

Ato Pampanga's playing coach

By Roy Luarca

ATO Agustin assumes a dual role as playing coach when he returns to Pampanga and the Metropolitan Basketball Association this season.

Wanting to end a colorful career with his home province, the 38-year-old Agustin told the INQUIRER yesterday that he'd accepted the post and was on the process of re-building the team which topped the 1998 MBA inaugurals as the Pampanga Dragons.

Agustin, the 1992 PBA MVP, said the core of the team, which is likely to be known as the Stars when the MBA's fifth season begins on April 6, will come from remnants of the Dragons.

Among those to be tapped by Agustin are veterans Dave Bautista, Billy Bansil, Melvin Taguines, Richard Melencio and Willy Mejia.

Agustin played with Batang Red Bull in the PBA last year, but chose to return to Pampanga to impart his knowledge to young Pampanga players.

Assisting Agustin in forming the team is another former local star, Romy Lopez, team manager Allan Trinidad and provincial board member Robert David. The Dragons took a leave of absence from the MBA last year.

Cebu Lhuillier tryouts

CEBUANA Lhuillier Gems general manager Danny Francisco announced yesterday that there will be open tryouts for their MBA team tomorrow (1-4 p.m.) and Thursday (9 a.m.-noon) at the Dumlao Gym in Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong.

Gems coach Francis Rodriguez will conduct the tryouts.

Xavier School MMBL champion

XAVIER School emerged as the winningest youth basketball team in the land Sunday by turning back San Beda, 70-66, to bag the prestigious Metro Manila Basketball League (MMBL) title at the Brent School gym in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Sweet-shooting Chris Tiu poured in 33 points, including eight in a three-minute span when the Stallions wiped out a 34-24 Red Cubs lead in the second period, and then joined hands with shifty point guard Tyrone Tang, who chipped in 16 points, to seal the victory in the last two minutes.

The Stallions' 14th crown in 31 months—a record of sorts in local youth basketball—came a day after they toppled St. Stephens, 52-45, to complete a sweep of first round action in the Tiong Lian cagefest.

"The boys played their hearts out. They deserved to win," said Xavier coach Alfredo "Mon" Amador. "It was a big victory since we beat the best UAAP and NCAA junior teams in this prestigious tournaments.

Sammy Young, Leonard Lee, Bon Syiaco and J.C. Yu also contributed to the Stallions' scoring, while Marty Tio and Joseph Chua sparkled in defense.

The Stallions trailed 18-21 at the end of the first period, but inched ahead, 38-36, at halftime on Tang's two free throws. They never looked back after that.

The scores:

Xavier (70)—Tiu 33, Tang 16, Young 7, Lee 5, Syiaco 5, Yu 3, J. Chua 1, Tio 0, Ang 0, Yee 0

San Beda (66)—Agbayani 16, Tabique 16, Arao 14, Braganza 7, Escueta 7, Obuyes 2, Casio 2, Baldos 0, Violago 0

Halftime: 38-36

Pagunsan starts defense of DHL-NGAP title

JUVIC Pagunsan's rising fame will be put to test starting today when he goes up against Angelo Que and the rest of the country's top guns in the 7th DHL-NGAP Amateurs at Canlubang North.

Pagunsan won the SEA Games gold last year when Que was dropped from the national team after his request to include a friend into the team was denied by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Que will find himself hard-pressed in toppling Pagunsan, who is gunning for a rare "three-peat."

Rod Feliciano, president of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines and chair of the sponsoring DHL Philippines, said that the event will kick off another busy year for the NGAP.

"We'll really try to get our amateurs into as many tournaments as possible. It's going to be a big first quarter for us since we're also organizing the Philippine Open and again, we will be forming a strong amateur cast there," said Feliciano. Feliciano will lead the ceremonial tee-off-together with Luigi Yulo, managing director of the host club and other DHL officials at 7:30 a.m. Tee-off time is at 8 a.m.

Spicing up the men's battle is the 54-hole women's competition starting tomorrow, with Heidi Chua, recent winner of the Philippine Ladies Open, going for a back-to-back romp of the country's biggest amateur diadems.

Chua will be up against the same player whom she narrowly beat at Wack Wack, Aileen Rose Yao. Defending champion Carmelette Villaroman is expected to crowd them for top honors.

Chua defends Southern Ladies crown at Del Monte

CHUA

NEWLY crowned Philippine Ladies Open champion Heidi Chua heads a high-powered cast when the 39th edition of the Southern Ladies Open Golf Tournament blasts off Feb. 6-8 at Del Monte in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.

Chua will defend the crown she successfully defended last year in Bacolod. She will be actually aiming for a "three-peat" performance as she also won the 2000 event hosted by Pueblo de Oro in Cagayan de Oro.

Preceeding the tournament proper is the traditional Lam-Am event on Feb. 5 where the ladies are paired with men members of the clubs and some invited participants.

About 80 lady golfers coming from different clubs in Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao are expected to join this event.

Supporting this annual event are Wide Wide World Express DHL, PSC, DPC Yellow Pages, Air Philippines, Mizuno, Hidden Spring Mineral Water, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines and Gopez Group of Companies.

According to the Organizing Committee headed by Ms Alice Andrada, NGAP chair of the ladies committee, players will be classified based on the number of entries and handicap indexes/certified handicaps.

"There will also be a team play among the participating clubs simultaneous with the individual competition," Andrada added.

Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 players in each group classification.

The Molave Scoring System (Modified Stableford) will be in effect. The Molave System converts the gross scores per hole into points with a player salvaging a point after scoring a double bogey, bogey 2 pts, par-3 pts, birdies-4 points, eagle-5 pts, double eagle-6 pts and hole-in-One 7 pts.

For more details, call Hazel or Charlyn at 525-6987/524-5160, or Rene and Marianita at (088) 855-5976 to 78 loc. 6145.

Solid

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE CAST is interesting, if not star-studded. The DHL-NGAP Open should be a crowd-drawer starting today at Canlubang North.

You have the old guards in Rolly Viray, Dave Hernandez, Iggy Clavecilla and Tommy Manotoc making a go of it. I will not be surprised if one of them would emerge champion. Rolly has been honing his game for months I was told. Dave is fresh from a lucrative stint in Brunei. Iggy is still hot from his sorry miss of a PGA Tour card in the US. And Tommy, well, Tommy has always been a most feared parbuster; ageless pare.

Juvic Pagunsan, Angelo Que, Jerome Delariarte and Jay Bayron are supposed to be the stars of the show. Rightly so. They are among the country's top amateurs at the moment.

Juvic, gunning for a third straight win, and Angelo, the reigning RP Open amateur champion, are meeting for the first time after a little while. Surely, their duel could spark some thrills.

Angelo was not in Kuala Lumpur last September when Juvic won the SEA Games golf gold in runaway fashion. Angelo would be aching to defeat Juvic; his victory would unseat the back-to-back DHL-NGAP Open champion from Bacolod.

Even the women's side should give us some drama.

Heidi Chua against Aileen Rose Yao, the chief protagonists in the recent Philippine Ladies Open, will again be a match to watch. Heidi beat Aileen by one stroke at Wack Wack two weeks ago.

Rod Feliciano, DHL's top honcho, is indeed a lucky guy. Take a bow, Rod. Your tournament has practically assembled the country's who's who in amateur golf.

Here's to Rod, one of the last solid supporters of golf.

Welcoat-Shark series on; Paintmasters taking leave

GAMES TODAY: *(Makati Coliseum)*
3 p.m.—Kutitap vs ICTSI-La Salle
(for 3rd, best-of-3)
5 p.m.—Shark vs Welcoat
(championship, best-of-7)

By Dennis U. Eroa

BACULI

AUSTRIA

TITLEHOLDER Shark Energy Drink needs a king-size upset to stop Welcoat's bid of putting an exclamation mark to its glorious campaign as the PBL Challenge Cup best-of-seven championship series unwraps today at the Makati Coliseum.

Terry Que, who co-owns the Welcoat franchise with Raymund Yu, yesterday told the INQUIRER that the Paintmasters, proud owners of four titles since 1999, will take a leave of absence regardless of the result of their campaign this conference.

"We'll be back for sure, but at the moment, we want to say goodbye in blazing fashion," said Que.

Que explained that the entry of their top players including Yancy de Ocampo and Ren Ren Ritualo to the PBA decimated their squad."We're not keen to field a so-so team next conference. Welcoat is not in the mood to have a losing season."

To make its swan song momentous, Welcoat needs to hurdle a Shark crew hoping to relive the glory of edging the Paintmasters, 4-3, in last year's Challenge Cup.

Game One is set at 5 p.m., with ICTSI-La Salle and Kutitap Toothpaste starting their own best-of-three series for third at 3 p.m.

"It will be a different battle. Records no longer count," said Welcoat coach Junel Baculi. Baculi's wards hold a 11-4 win-loss record against Shark in the finals. The Paintmasters also swept the Energy Drink Kings twice in best-seven championships, including the recent Chairman's Cup tournament.

A victory will also give Baculi his fifth straight crown, making Welcoat the second winningest team behind Tanduay with seven titles.

Coach Leo Austria admits Shark is facing an uphill climb to upstage Welcoat. Last year, Austria had the luxury of fielding now Purefoods reliever Roger Yap, who went on to win MVP honors.

Without the prolific Yap, Austria and deputies Dayong Mendoza and Jun Galabin have been digging dig into their bag of tricks. ,Chester Tolomia, and Rysal Castro flopped in the Chairman's Cup finals and must redeem themselves.

"How strong is Welcoat? Fact is, it can win games during its offday," noted Austria. He noted that one trait which can turn the series around is 'pride.'

"We want to show the world that our victory last year wasn't a fluke. Besides, this may be our final chance to stop Welcoat," Austria said

Shark needs to put the clamps on Ritualo, gamble on making a single coverage against De Ocampo, check Allen Patrimonio's power plays and keep pace with Welcoat's matured backcourt composed of Celino Cruz and Eugene Tan.

As consolations, veterans Gerald Ortega, Jing Rodriguez and Rolly Basilides are playing solidly and with Warren Ybañez creating a lot of noise with his court-wizardry, Shark can pull a surprise.

"One cannot totally stop Ritualo. The thing is to limit his point production, same with Jojo Manalo,"said the youthful Mendoza, a UP graduate.

Aside from 6-foot-5 Castro, Shark also boasts of 6-foot-7 Irvin Sotto, whose perimeter game can loosen Welcoat's fearsome zone. De Ocampo also has his reliable backup—6-foot-9 Derick Canlas.

Shark and Welcoat split their elimination matches this conference. The Energy Drink Kings prevailed in the first round, 78-76, but bowed in the second, 79-65.

Cage body to honor Joey Lina

DEPARTMENT of Interior and Local Government Secretary and former Laguna Governor Jose D. Lina will be given a special award as Most Outstanding Local Government Official during the 2nd Philippine National Basketball Academy Awards Night on Wednesday, Jan. 30, at the Century Park Hotel, Vito Cruz, Manila.

Lina will be honored with the award for his invaluable support to the Basketball Association of the Philippines when he was still governor of the province of Laguna. Secretary Lina will be honored with the award for his invaluable support to the Basketball Association of the Philippines when he was still governor of the province of Laguna.

As Laguna governor, Lina played host to the National Juniors Championship in 1998. A year later, Secretary Lina hosted the 1st National Youth Games in May 1999, earning for him the distinction of being the "Godfather of the National Youth Games."

The National Youth Games was established in coordination with the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) and the different national sports associations, and were held in various municipalities in the province of Laguna.

Last year, prior to his appointments as DILG secretary Lina again welcomed the holding of the 2001 National Students Championship in San Pablo, Laguna.

SPORTSWATCH

Under-16 soccer on tomorrow

ILOILO CITY—IT'S all systems go for the 18th Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 national football championship with six teams vying for honors starting tomorrow at the Barotac Nuevo field here. The finalists are Luzon qualifiers three-time champion La Salle Zobel and Masbate Comprehensive National High, Mindanao's La Salle Academy of Iligan and Rizal Memorial Colleges of Davao City, Visayas champion Cebu Carmen National High and host Barotac Nuevo Comprehensive National High. LSA, RMC and Cebu Carmen booters are expected to arrive today in time for tomorrow's 1 p.m. opening ceremony. Gov. Niel O. Trenas, Congressman Narciso D. Monfort, Barotac Nuevo Mayor Pedro B. Hautea, Coca-Cola director for external affairs Jose Bayani Baylon, Philippine Football Federation president Rene Z. Adad and local football officials have been invited to grace the opening rites.

DiMarco rules Phoenix Open

DiMARCO

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona — Chris DiMarco closed with a 2-under 69 at the Phoenix Open for his third PGA Tour victory in as many seasons, but this one will be remembered as the one he tried to throw away. He recovered just in time Sunday, hitting his tee shot within 46 centimeters (18 inches) for a birdie on the 16th that allowed him to catch Kenny Perry. He pulled ahead when Perry took bogey on the 302-meter (332-yard) 17th after missing the green in the worst place. Perry, who earlier missed a 46-centimeter (18-inch) birdie putt, had a three-putt bogey on the 17th and couldn't recover. He finished with a 70. Indeed, this Phoenix Open was won by default. John Daly was in the mix, too, tied for the lead after a birdie-par-eagle start, only to drop five strokes over his next seven holes by living up to his "Wild Thing" reputation off the tee. He managed a nice recovery to tie for fourth, two strokes behind. DiMarco finished at 267 and earned $ 720,000, putting him atop the PGA Tour money list. Kaname Yokoo of Japan had his highest career finish on the PGA Tour, closing with a 7-under 64 to finish one stroke behind. *AP*

Rams vs Patriots in Super Bowl

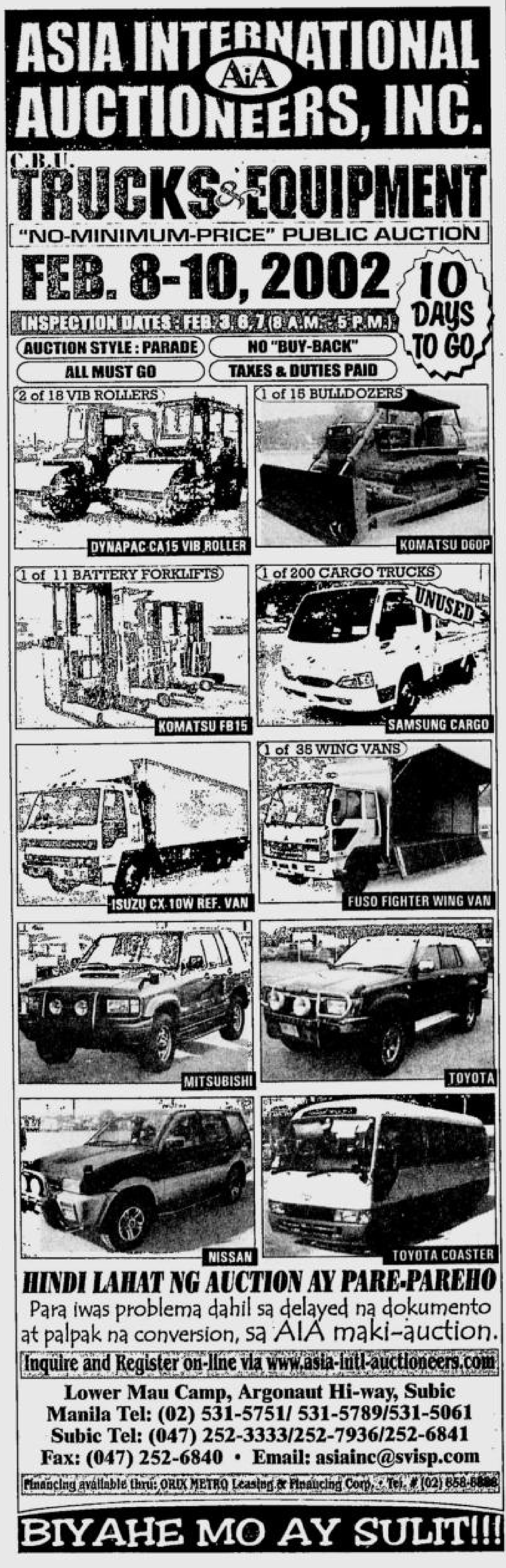
ST. LOUIS—They call themselves "The Greatest Show on Earth." While the St. Louis Rams aren't always great, they were certainly too much for the NFC to handle.Now let's see if the New England Patriots can stop them in the Super Bowl. Marshall Faulk rushed for a career playoff-high 159 yards and scored two touchdowns to lead the Rams to a 29-24 victory over the gritty Philadelphia Eagles in the NFC championship game. Drew Bledsoe replaced an injured Tom Brady and led the Patriots to the Super Bowl with a 24-17 upset over the Pitssburgh Steelers nl the AFC Championship. "I couldn't ask for anything better than to go back to New Orleans and play in front of my friends and family," said Faulk, the NFL's Offensive Player of the Year three straight seasons and a native of New Orleans. It won't be easy for the Patriots to slow Faulk, who became the focal point for the Rams (16-2) in the second half - when he delivered his two 1-yard scoring runs. "We felt to win this game, we had to get that ball to Marshall," coach Mike Martz said. "I think what everybody thinks - he is just a great player. ... He took over the ballgame in certain situations." *AP*

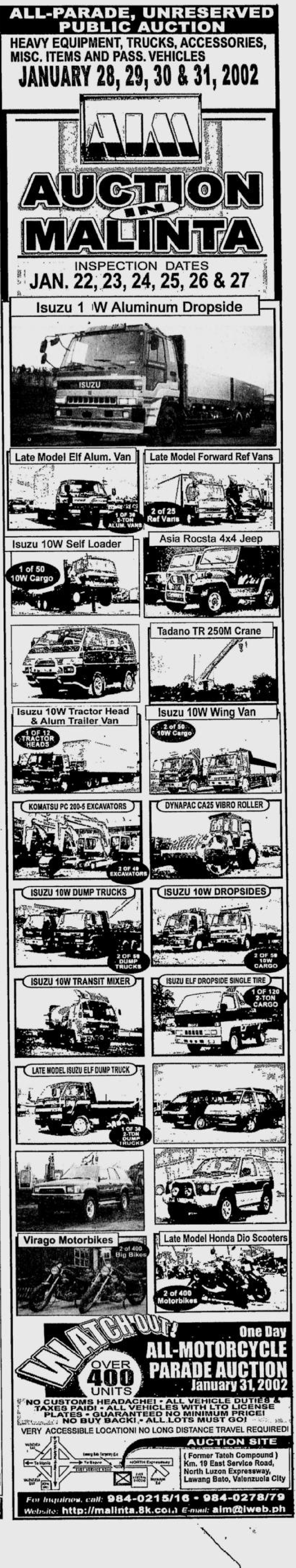
3rd Ucap BJ derby fires off

ANOTHER exciting showdown of big-time cockers await aficionados at Mandaluyong Coliseum in today's 3rd Ucap BJ Greenwood 7-Cock Derby which will start at 5 p.m. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo. Featured today are more than 65 fights in the 3-cock elimination round ,while the championship round (4-cock) is on Thursday, Jan. 31. Ucap president Butch Macasaet, derby host, assured derby fans of seven to eight fights of non-stop, fast-paced encounters per hour. Aside from Ucap stalwarts, also seeing action today are guest participants from Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Batangas and several members of the NCA.

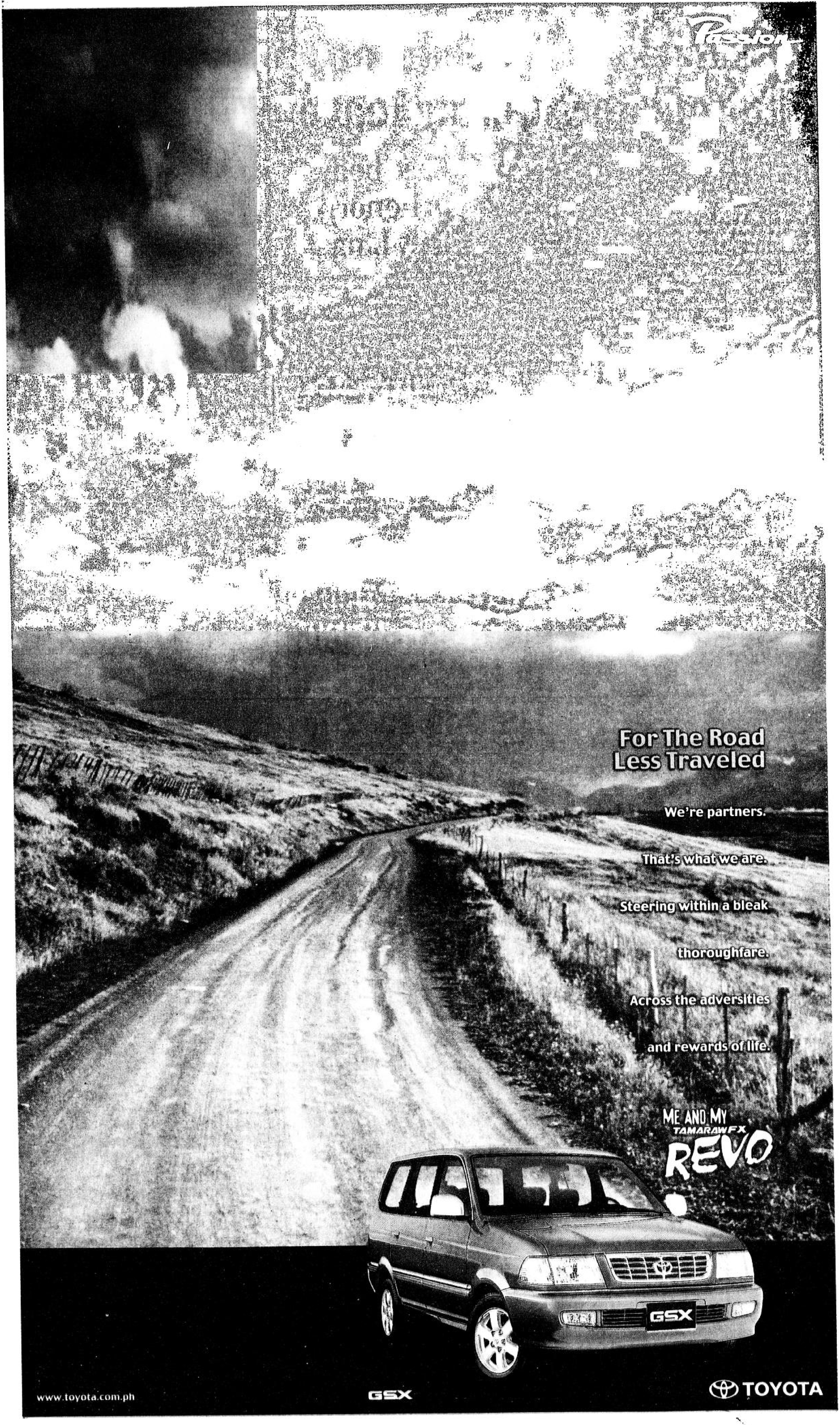
Ravina tops youth bikefest

NEW teenage sensation Jun Ravina displayed remarkable mountain climbing prowess on the last three climbs to sustain a blistering 33-km solo run and rule the first Pangasinan Invitational Youth Cycling Championships last Sunday. Ravina, 18, of Asingan town, clocked 3 hours and 52 minutes flat for the 139-km distance en route to the P6,000 top prize and P1,000 for two summit wins. He also received a mountain bike incentive gift from Police Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza Jr., the PNP provincial director of Pangasinan. Johnny Dasalla, also 18, of Umingan town, also checked in solo for second place, 1 minute and 28 seconds off the pace. He pocketed P4,000. Nueva Ecija's Edmar Magbitang, 16, outsprinted a seven-man pack, 2 minutes and 38 seconds behind Ravina, to clinch the P3,000 third prize. The top three finishers received trophies courtesy of Col. Mendoza.


ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
AiA
C.B.U. TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT
"NO-MINIMUM-PRICE" PUBLIC AUCTION
FEB. 8-10, 2002
10 DAYS TO GO
INSPECTION DATES : FEB. 3, 6, 7 (8 A.M. - 5 P.M.)
AUCTION STYLE : PARADE
NO "BUY-BACK"
ALL MUST GO
TAXES & DUTIES PAID
2 of 18 VIB ROLLERS
DYNAPAC CA15 VIB ROLLER
1 of 15 BULLDOZERS
KOMATSU D60P
1 of 11 BATTERY FORKLIFTS
KOMATSU FB15
1 of 200 CARGO TRUCKS
UNUSED
SAMSUNG CARGO
ISUZU CX 10W REF. VAN
1 of 35 WING VANS
FUSO FIGHTER WING VAN
MITSUBISHI
TOYOTA
NISSAN
TOYOTA COASTER
HINDI LAHAT NG AUCTION AY PARE-PAREHO
Para iwas problema dahil sa delayed na dokumento at palpak na conversion, sa AIA maki-auction.
Inquire and Register on-line via www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
Lower Mau Camp, Argonaut Hi-way, Subic
Manila Tel: (02) 531-5751/ 531-5789/531-5061
Subic Tel: (047) 252-3333/252-7936/252-6841
Fax: (047) 252-6840 • Email: asiainc@svisp.com
Financing available thru: ORIX METRO Leasing & Financing Corp. • Tel. # (02) 858-8888
BIYAHE MO AY SULIT!!!


ALL-PARADE, UNRESERVED PUBLIC AUCTION
HEAVY EQUIPMENT, TRUCKS, ACCESSORIES, MISC. ITEMS AND PASS. VEHICLES
JANUARY 28, 29, 30 & 31, 2002
AIM
AUCTION IN MALINTA
INSPECTION DATES
JAN. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 & 27
Isuzu 1 W Aluminum Dropside
ISUZU
Late Model Elf Alum. Van
1 OF 30 2-TON ALUM. VANS
Late Model Forward Ref Vans
2 of 25 Ref Vans
Isuzu 10W Self Loader
1 of 50 10W Cargo
Asia Rocsta 4x4 Jeep
Tadano TR 250M Crane
Isuzu 10W Tractor Head & Alum Trailer Van
1 OF 12 TRACTOR HEADS
Isuzu 10W Wing Van
2 of 50 10W Cargo
KOMATSU PC 200-5 EXCAVATORS
2 OF 40 EXCAVATORS
DYNAPAC CA25 VIBRO ROLLER
ISUZU 10W DUMP TRUCKS
2 OF 50 DUMP TRUCKS
ISUZU 10W DROPSIDES
2 OF 50 10W CARGO
ISUZU 10W TRANSIT MIXER
ISUZU ELF DROPSIDE SINGLE TIRE
1 OF 120 2-TON CARGO
LATE MODEL ISUZU ELF DUMP TRUCK
1 OF 30 2-TON DUMP TRUCKS
Virago Motorbikes
2 of 400 Big Bikes
Late Model Honda Dio Scooters
2 of 400 Motorbikes
WATCH OUT!
OVER 400 UNITS
One Day ALL-MOTORCYCLE PARADE AUCTION
January 31, 2002
NO CUSTOMS HEADACHE! • ALL VEHICLE DUTIES & TAXES PAID! • ALL VEHICLES WITH LTO LICENSE PLATES • GUARANTEED NO MINIMUM PRICE! NO BUY BACK! • ALL LOTS MUST GO!
VERY ACCESSIBLE LOCATION! NO LONG DISTANCE TRAVEL REQUIRED!

AUCTION SITE
(Former Tateh Compound)
Km. 19 East Service Road,
North Luzon Expressway,
Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City
For Inquiries, call: 984-0215/16 - 984-0278/79
Website: http://malinta.8k.co.n E-mail: aim@iweb.ph


For The Road Less Traveled
We're partners.
That's what we are.
Steering within a bleak
thoroughfare.
Across the adversities
and rewards of life.
ME AND MY
TAMARAW FX
REVO
GSX
www.toyota.com.ph
GSX
TOYOTA

▩ NBI backtracks on Nida probe /A20
▩ Car thief gunned down in QC /A20

METRO

Louie C. Camino, Editor

▩ QC first to dump in landfill /A21
▩ On Target: A swindling bank and a corrupt police agency /A21

Slow down on new LTO-MMDA traffic policy, mayors urge

By Christian V. Esguerra

METRO Manila mayors yesterday asked authorities to go slow on a new traffic policy that will impose stiffer penalties on violators.

Pasay Mayor Peewee Trinidad, spokesperson of the mayors, said both the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Land Transportation Office should carefully study the policy before implementing it.

"(The policy) is worth considering," Trinidad told the INQUIRER yesterday. "But it would be better if it would be carefully studied first. We're not yet sure if it would really solve the traffic problem."

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. on Friday announced that both his office and the LTO would strictly implement a new traffic rule to help solve the worsening traffic problem in the metropolis.

According to the new policy, drivers can lose their licenses if they are caught violating traffic regulations for the third time. They cannot renew their licenses until after a year and after attending a seminar on traffic policies.

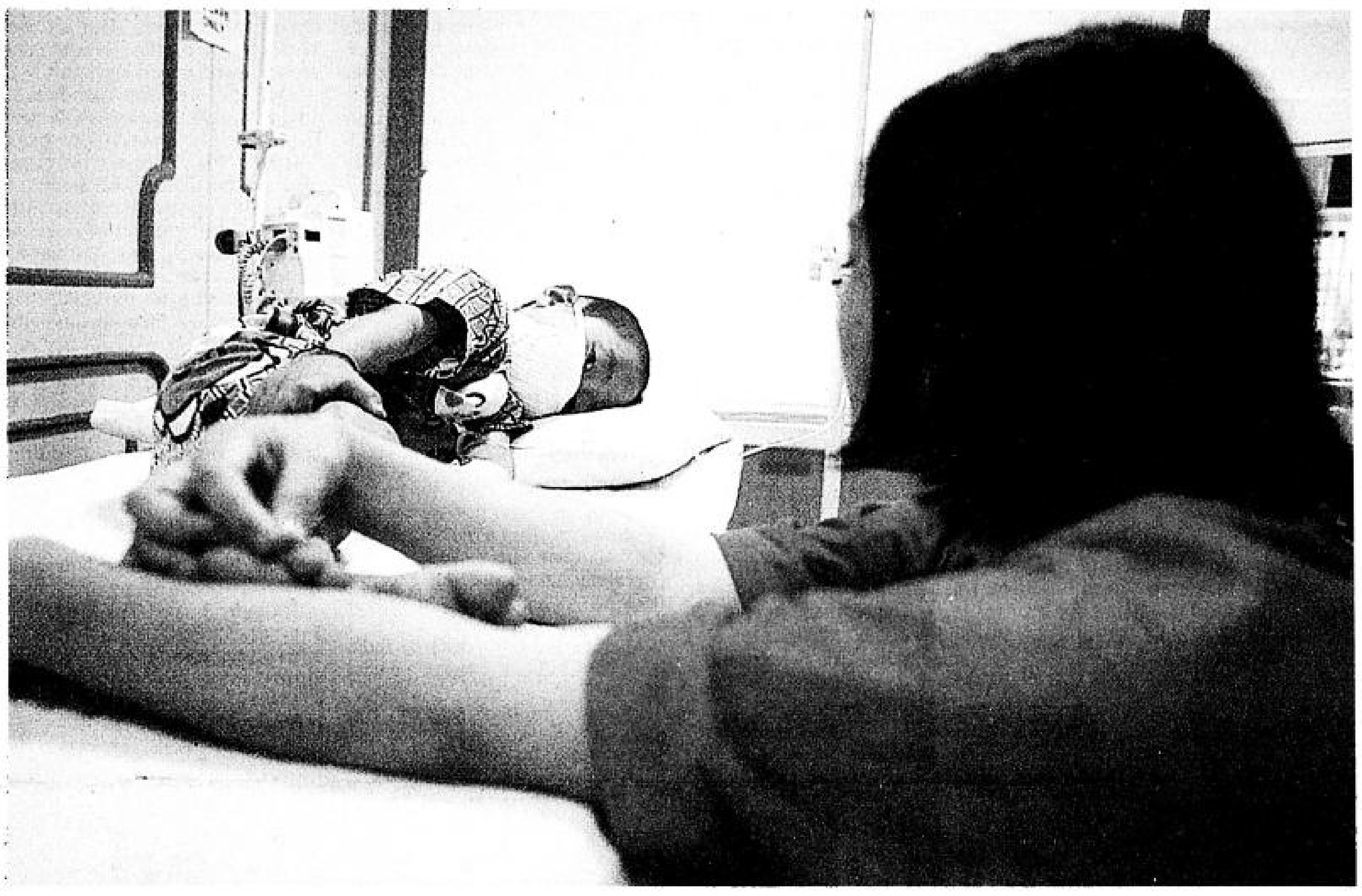
But even before the new traffic rule could be implemented, jeepney drivers have already threatened to stage a nationwide strike to pressure authorities to reconsider it.

Members of the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Opereytors Nationwide Inc. are set to picket the offices of the MMDA and the LTO.

While he expressed optimism about the policy, Trinidad argued that the MMDA and the LTO should first implement, stricter measures on the issuance of driving permits.

"The lack of discipline among drivers is really the problem," he said. "Authorities should work on the source of the problem which is the issuance of licenses."

He said authorities should ensure that driving permits are given only to applicants who really know how to drive and who are aware of all traffic regulations.



CHEMOTHERAPY kid Samuel Marshall, who has leukemia, is watched by his mother Breechie at the Fe del Mundo Medical Center in Quezon City. The chemotherapy is made possible with funds raised by LIFE. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Korina desperate, says lawyer

By Alcuin Papa

THE LAWYER of the maid who accused Korina Sanchez and her reported boyfriend Paul O. Aquino of beating her up last December described the ABS-CBN newsreader and radio talk show host as a "desperate woman."

Lawyer Melanio "Batas" Mauricio, counsel of maid Bernadita Inocencio, 42, said in a statement he released to the media yesterday that he was not deterred in pursuing the case against Sanchez even after she filed a disbarrment case against him before

KORINA/ A20

Cut The Heat Inside Your Car!

DASHIELD®

Multi-layered dashboard cover with UV inhibitors
- Maximizes aircon efficiency
- Used by Transhow & Motorshow winners
- 90% heat reduction on dashboard
- Guaranteed elegant and effective
- Available for most car and van models

1013 EDSA (near Veterans Vill. entrance), Quezon City
Tel. nos. 372-3640 • 372-2464 • 415-7837
PATENTED

WAZZZZUP? ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

8th day BAR • CAFE ST. FRANCIS SQ. ORTIGAS CTR.	FIRST CIRCLE	☎634.7696/98
BUMA 9595 KAMAGONG ST. MAKATI	MOONSTRUCKS DYNASOULS	896.2116/896.1939
Café OVERDRIVE FORD BLDG. P.TAMO EXT., MAKATI	SHARMAINE SANTIAGO	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎8185555
Cowboy Grill BRGY ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS	KOOLJACKS SWEETBLOOD	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎801.7644
Cowboy Grill ARQUEZA ST., MALATE	THINKERS w/ JOGRAD POWER SURGE/FREEZE	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	SERSIDE ICE KENDI	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	MR. ROXY PHYRIGIAN/BEATBOX	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎936.9757
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY	SOUNDSTREAM TAFT AVE.	GREAT DIVIDE JAN. 31 ☎890.4735
TIA MARIA'S REMEDIOS COR. CAROLINA ST.	SPAGHETTI VERSE 2	WISEGUYS JAN.30 ☎522-0429
OUTSIDE METRO MANILA		
Cowboy Grill BINAN, LAGUNA.	FEEDBACK FAT 16	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎(049) 511.7268
SUMMIT	ELEMENTS JAN 16-31 W/LIVE ENTERTAIMENT MONDAYS THRU SATURDAYS	HAPPY HOUR 6-9 PM ☎(082)225-8888

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29 912-8983

LIFE brings hope to ALL children

By Leila Salaverria

DANA Dana Vie Nino or "Tiny," now 3, wants to become a mermaid when she grows up.

Tiny seems like any other child—playful, inquisitive and vivacious—except that her thinning hair is cut close to the scalp and she wears a mask.

Tiny has to undergo painful bone marrow treatment and chemotherapy every few months or so to rid her of Acute Lymphocitic Leukemia (ALL), which affects mostly children.

Samuel Marshall, who is 5, is also an ALL patient. He is also playful, but he becomes still and pensive when undergoing chemotherapy. He was diagnosed with leukemia last September.

Samuel and his mother Breechie traveled all the way from Bauang, La Union so the boy could get treatment. Breechie, a housewife, says she and her husband, a driver, have a hard time raising the money for their son's treatment.

"The well-off people that we know refuse to help us because they believe my son will die soon anyway," she says in Filipino. "I myself wanted to give up on him, but the doctors told me there is hope."

The doctors she is referring to belong to the Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment or LIFE, a non-stock, non-profit organization put up in 1995 to help finance the treatment of leukemic children who cannot afford it. LIFE is headed by Dr. Alendry Caviles, one of the leading hematologists and oncologists in the country and the president of the Fe del Mundo Medical Center in Quezon City, where LIFE is based.

Samuel is one of the reasons why LIFE was established.

Dr. Caviles says he noticed that very few leukemic children from poor families were getting treatment.

"Those who survive beyond 3 to 5 years are paying patients," says Caviles. "The poorer patients are unable to buy medicine to continue the treatment at home. And home treatment is essential."

He says that while ALL strikes mostly children, a good number of the patients stand a good chance of being cured as long as they get proper and continuous treatment.

"Poverty should not be the deciding factor in whether you should die or not," he stresses.

Adopt a patient

LIFE conducts its own fund-raising projects, but private institutions, individuals and civic organizations also help. Donors are requested to "adopt" a patient and pay for the patient's medication for three years, the entire duration of the treatment, which costs approximately P250,000. If the donors find the amount too steep, they may terminate their adoption but they must inform LIFE a few months before they stop.

LIFE BRINGS/ A20

39 dzRH employees fired

By Alcuin Papa

RADIO station dzRH, the country's biggest AM station, yesterday fired 39 employees, or around 70 percent of the workforce, saying the company was losing money.

The INQUIRER learned that the 39 employees belonged to the news, drama and engineering divisions. Sources inside the station said the retrenchment was a continuation of last year's firings. The services of about 70 employees were earlier terminated.

The radio station, once the country's No. 1 AM station, will be left with only five field reporters, two desk persons and two drivers, the Inquirer also learned.

The 39 were given their walking papers starting last Saturday. The retrenchment will be effective Feb. 28 but the employees can still collect their wages up to March, the Inquirer learned.

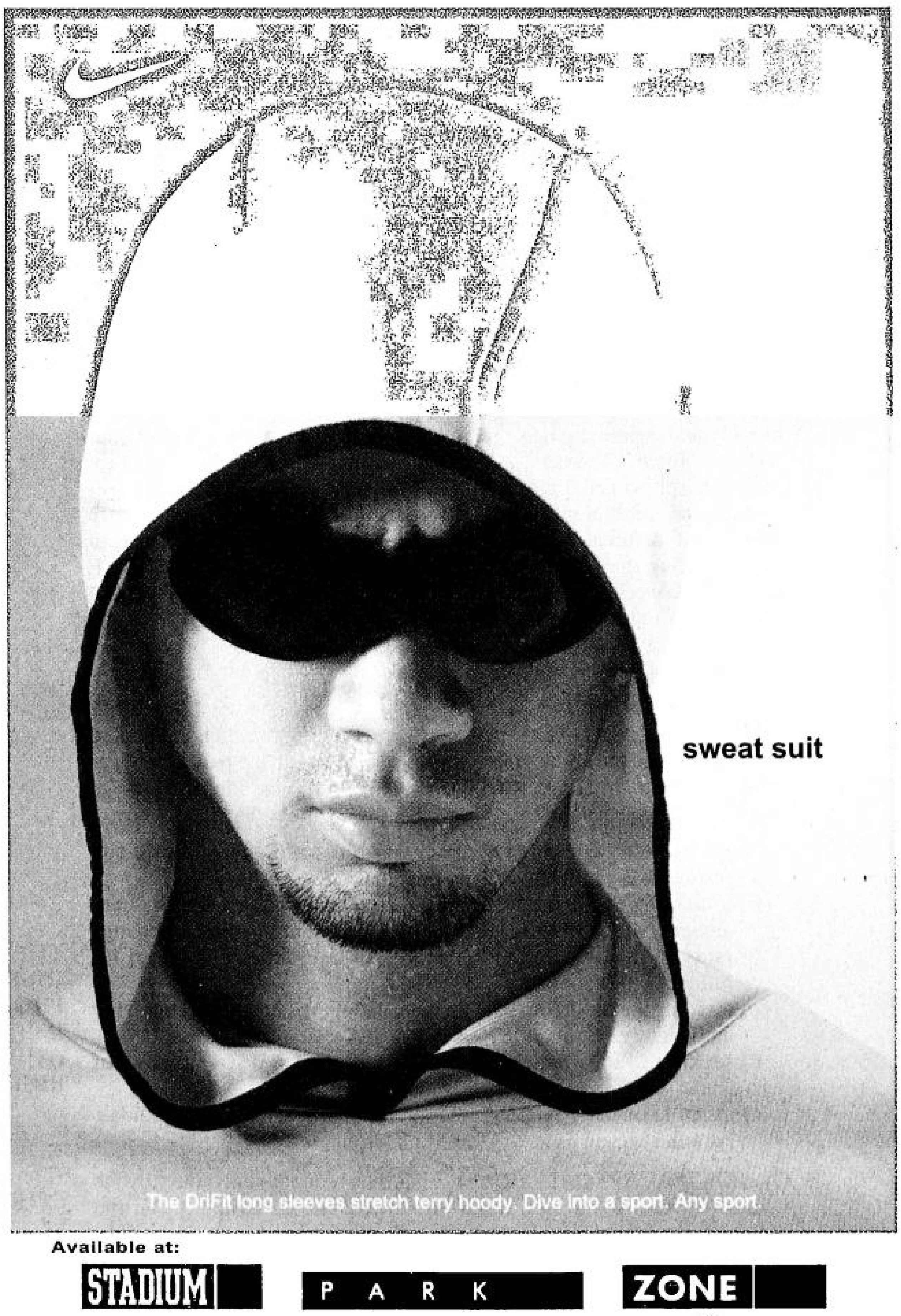
Some of the employees, especially those in the drama division, have been working in the station for the last decade or so.

Reporters and staff members who refused to be identified said the reason management gave for the layoffs was "unbelievable and improbable."

"How can they say the station is losing money when we can hardly air our reports because of the heavy load of commercials?" asked one reporter.

"It's sad because we have families to feed

39 DZRH / A21



sweat suit
The DriFit long sleeves stretch terry hoody. Dive into a sport. Any sport.

Available at:
STADIUM PARK ZONE

NBI backtracks on Nida investigation

By Philip C. Tubeza

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday backtracked after saying the bureau already knew the description of the suspected killer of actress Nida Blanca.

Earlier, he said it was "safe to say" the killer's "arrest would provide a major breakthrough in the case."

He admitted that the bureau was not certain if the suspect, whom he described was a Filipino, was still in the country. He also said the man did not do it on his own and that someone else told him to kill the actress.

Wycoco, however, changed his statement later, saying he was no longer sure if the man was indeed Blanca's killer or a witness in the killing. But he said his men were confident that the case would soon be solved although the investigation might still take some time.

He said the inquiry into Blanca's death is now near its final stage.

"The investigative work is finished but not the detective work," he said.

Wycoco explained that the "investigative work" entails finding the right angle and gathering evidence and clues in the murder. But the bureau is finished with that, he said.

He said the NBI is now in the "detective work" stage, which involves the persons behind the killing.

Last week, Wycoco said the NBI was hunting down a man hired to kill Blanca.

"It's really very difficult to solve the case because the suspect cleaned up the crime scene (to hide his tracks)," Wycoco said.

He also said Blanca might not have been killed in her Nissan sedan. He said Blanca died from "loss of blood from her stab wounds."

"This makes the case more difficult (to solve)," Wycoco said. "This killing was really planned carefully."

Wycoco also said the bureau would not ask the United States to send back to the country Blanca's husband, Rod Strunk, because no case has been filed against him.

Strunk left for California last week to be with his ailing mother, who has since died. Wycoco denied that the bureau sent a team to the United States to follow Strunk's movements.

"He hasn't been charged in connection with the Blanca case," Wycoco said. "His lawyers have also promised that he would come back. We have his (telephone) number and address in the United States."

METROBRIEFS

Car thief gunned down in QC

A SUSPECTED member of the "Bukas-Kotse" gang was killed in a shootout with policemen in Novaliches, Quezon City about 3 a.m. last Thursday. The unidentified suspect was armed with a pistol when he tried to steal the green Mitsubishi Pajero (WCK 987) of a certain Rudy Padilla, which was parked in front of a pizza parlor on Quirino Highway, Barangay Gulod, Novaliches, police said. The suspect allegedly smashed the glass window of the vehicle and tried to get inside. But the vehicle owner spotted the robber and sought the assistance of police who were in the area. The owner, along with two policemen, went after the suspect and caught up with him at the corner of Nitong and Maligaya streets. When the suspect spotted the police, he opened fire. Police fired back and hit the suspect. The lawmen took him to the Quezon City General Hospital where he was pronounced dead about 5 a.m.

Agnes Donato

Fake cedulas

MANILA policemen arrested Iluminado Saldua, 35, a city government employee, for selling fake community tax certificates, or cedulas, inside City Hall. Supt. Ernesto Ibay, head of City Hall's Special Operations Group, said Georgie Villarosa, a messenger from the Dino Accounting Agency, went to City Hall to apply for 56 pieces of community tax certificates. Villarosa said he paid P43,719 for the certificates, but when he went to the City Hall's inner court to secure an order of payment, it was discovered that the documents issued to him were fake. Notified of the incident, City Treasurer Liberty Toledo called the SOG for assistance and ordered the arrest of Saldua, who worked in the cash division of the City Treasurer's Office. Ibay said Saldua admitted to being part of a syndicate, producing fake cedulas. He also identified other members of the syndicate, but the police temporarily withheld the identities pending their arrest. *Jerome Aning*

Hogtied and killed

TAXI driver Richard Serbulahos and an unidentified man were found dead in a cab in Makati City before dawn last Thursday. Police said the 9-Star taxi, a Toyota Corolla (PSA-608), belonged to Serbulahos, of Baesa, Quezon City. The two men were hogtied before they were shot several times, police said. PO2 Reynaldo Juan, of the Makati City Homicide Section, said the victims were shot by two men, one of whom was seen riding a motorcycle about 2:30 a.m. near the South Cemetery, Barangay Sta. Cruz, Makati City. Juan said a witness saw the cab being tailed by one of the suspects onboard a motorcycle. Police believed the other suspect might have been driving the cab while the victims were hogtied inside. When the vehicles reached the South Cemetery, one of the suspects alighted, pulled out a gun and shot the victims point blank. The suspect on the motorcycle also alighted and pumped more bullets into the victims. After a few minutes, a vehicle with no license plates arrived, picked up one of the suspects and left the scene, together with the other suspect on board the motorcycle.

Alcuin Papa

Revenge killing

MICHAEL R. Duque, 17, was shot 14 times last Friday by a man out for revenge in Sta. Cruz, Manila. Duque, of Malabon Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila, did not make it alive to the University of Santo Tomas hospital after one of four men shot him, said Detective Virgo Villareal of the Western Police District Homicide Section. Duque was killed for his alleged involvement in the killing of another youth, who was shot dead while he was on his way to hear Midnight Mass last month. Duque and his friends—members of the True Brown Style street gang—were having a drink outside the victim's house about 12:30 a.m., when Duque received a text message which read in part: "I will kill you!" Minutes later, Duque went out on the street to talk to a woman. He did not notice the suspects—said to be members of the Temple Street Fraternity—arrive on board a green Mazda car. A suspect identified only as Jonathan alighted from the car with a handgun, approached Duque and fired 14 times. The gunman then quickly boarded the car and fled toward Quezon City. *Philip Tubeza*

Robber gunned down in Pasig

POLICE shot and killed a man after he reportedly robbed a group of bystanders in Pasig City Sunday morning. The alleged robber was identified as Ramon De Vera, 36, of MRR, Manggahan, Pasig City. He died before he reached the Pasig City General Hospital, police said. SPO1 Felipe Ramos of the Pasig City police said patrolling lawmen chanced upon De Vera right after he allegedly robbed a group of bystanders about 3 a.m. on a dimly lighted portion of Ortigas Avenue Extension, Barangay Rosario. The patrolmen said the suspect began to make a run for it when he saw the police coming. SPO1 Ramos said the lawmen gave chase, and when they were about to close in on the suspect, De Vera reportedly took out a knife apparently to deter the police. The lawmen fired warning shots, but the suspect continued to run. The patrolmen were force then to shoot down De Vera, SPO1 Ramos said.

Nelson Flores

LIFE brings hope . . .

(From page A19)

Many Filipino Chinese businessmen have adopted ALL patients but they have chosen to remain anonymous, Caviles shares. There are also students who assist in LIFE activities.

"Some of our donors are Hallmark and McDonald's," the doctor says. "Aiza Seguerra donated a cabinet full of toys."

The advertising agency Jimenez/D'Arcy helped in the information campaign through TV ads for LIFE. The campaign even won awards. But word of mouth remains the most effective means of raising the number of donors, Caviles says.

As of today, donors have completely "adopted" 100 LIFE beneficiaries; another 100 are partially adopted.

Play room

A room at the Fe del Mundo Medical Center is a play area for the young patients. It has toys, books, a TV set and art materials. On the walls hang the young patients' art works.

"When they play, their pain goes away," says Caviles. "This helps in the healing process and the treatment becomes more manageable."

LIFE also provides counseling for the parents of the patients. "It's not only the patients who need care," Caviles says. "The parents suffer, too."

He allows parents to stay beside their children when the young patients are undergoing treatment, especially the painful ones.

When Tiny had bone marrow treatment recently, her screams filled the hospital room. Her mother Vivian tried to comfort her with nursery songs and a soothing voice.

LIFE also organizes birthday celebrations, excursions and a sportsfest for its beneficiaries. It also has a "Make a Wish" project for those whose chances of survival are nil.

But LIFE's primary mission is still to pay for the treatment of leukemic children whose parents cannot afford it. In a way, it is also trying to make it possible for the children to grow up and see their dreams come true.

Korina desperate . . .

(From page A19)

the Supreme Court.

"In my opinion, this case is a desperate move from a desperate person," Mauricio said. "Why? Because why would Korina file a case against me when I am only a lawyer who is defending the oppressed."

Mauricio is the host of a legal radio show on GMA-7, the biggest rival of ABS-CBN.

"I am not afraid of the disbarrment case Sanchez filed and it will not stop me from defending the poor and oppressed in society," Mauricio said.

He said Inocencio had no one to turn to and he took it upon himself to help the maid against a "powerful" person like Sanchez.

Inocencio had filed against Sanchez charges of physical injuries and non-remittance of her Social Security System contributions while she was an employee of the broadcaster.

Arroyo's persuasion flights have arrived

WE, the Filipino People have been the loyal friends and allies of long historical standing of the United States.

WE continue to be so and WE stand-by the United States (as we did several times in the past against Spain, Japan, North Korea and North Vietnam) in the war against International Terrorism that bought about her tragic loss last 11 September 2001, to which we unmistakably and unequivocally commiserate.

WE cannot however as a self-respecting nation countenance, support and approve the unilateral decision, solicitous acceptance and deceitful explanation of GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, of and for the actual, physical an operational presence of the Unites States ground troops on the Philippine soil.

WE have therefore will the TRUTH out to set us FREE, to wit:

1. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO and her strategic thinkers with the encouragement of heir anti-American partners set-up, framed and entrapped the United States to perform an interventionist role in the Philippine Affairs in order to save and preserve her legally flamed, morally and politically beleaguered presidency, extend it up to 2004, as well as allow her and her cohorts into unholy alliances in the region for their own selfish benefit, even if it brings instability by fanning the fires of Muslim fundamentalism and creating a flashpoint situation in Mindanao that threatens to conflagrate the country and the region instead of containing their disintegration. The US MILITARY PRESENCE stripped of covers, excuses and justifications is GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO's own version of the U.S. PERSUASION FLIGHTS at the height of the 1989 military rebel's coup, except that hers was a pre-emptive psychological gambit and ploy designed to safekeep her increasingly unpopular government.
2. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO in order to save herself hoodwinked the United States to some with her troops, supposedly as part of the war efforts of the International Coalition against terrorism, but in reality to prop-up and project solid backing for her government. She did this by—
    a) not earnestly crashing the rag-tag banditry of the Abu Sayyaf and resolving the problem of American hostages;
    b) promoting and provoking a conspiracy against Nur Misuari, a co-architect of the 1996 peace accord, thereby igniting the Zamboanga raids on the occasion of her U.S. visit to dramatize the need for military intervention;
    c) dividing the MNLF leadership by isolating Misuari and recognizing an Executive Council in his stead as its representative;
    d) seeking Malaysian Government sponsorship of the change of leadership;
    e) insisting on early ARMM election for and installing her candidate Farouk Hussein as new ARMM governor.
3. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has thus brought our country by the wicked wave of her policy wand into any of these possible clear and present danger scenario:
    a) another Vietnam
    b) another East Timor
    c) another Beirut
    d) another Lebanon
    e) and so on and so forth.
4. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has consequently violated the sovereign peoples' constitutional mandate to secure the sovereignty of the state and the integrity of the national territory.
5. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO is principally guilty of this devious design and in this instance not the United States (?). For, by riding the international tide of war, surfing it to her political intentions, confusing the situation and providing misleading information on the ground, she pigeon-holed and boxed the American response. Note that the United States badly needs stability in the region, not a hole in the head by bringing the might of the Muslim crescent (Muslim Mindanao, Malaysia and Indonesia) on her neck. If only for this motivation, she is in this very rare occasion the entrapped rather than the instigator.
6. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO THEREFORE HAS TO GO NOW BEFORE SHE INFLICTS MORE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE ON OUR BELOVED COUNTRY. IRONICALLY, SHE HAS DONE GREAT DIS-SERVICE TO THE MAPHILINDO INITIATIVE OF HER LATE FATHER BECAUSE OF HER MEGALOMANIC ARROGANCE AND SELFISH ENDS.
7. AS for GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO's kind of alliance and cooperation with the United States, it would do well for the latter's national interest to immediately abandon the same and instead actively support the application in the Philippines of the policy declarations of principles of the Bandung Conference for respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity, regional security, cooperation and SELF-DETERMINATION.
8. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO and her kind of self-serving elitist leadership is the PAST. It is in rigor-mortis. The United States must not be caught unaware and in fixation by it. She must now look forward to a new partnership with a new breed of patriotic nation-builders.

WE THE FILIPINO PEOPLE therefore summon our PRIDE, CALL ON THE MORAL SEGMENTS OF OUR COLLAPSING SYSTEM and DISINTEGRATING INSTITUTIONS-CHURCH, MILITARY, LEGAL PROFESSION, MEDIA, BUSINESS, CIVIC COMMUNITY and MORE IMPORTANTLY THE POPULAR FORCE OF THE POOR TO HEED DIVINE GUIDANCE IN OUR COMMON STRUGGLE TO RESTORE RIGHTEOUSNESS IN OUR NATIONAL SPIRIT AND SOCIAL LIFE.

Manila, Philippines, 21 January 2002

SPIRIT OF HEROES MOVEMENT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

PEOPLES ACTION FOR THE OUSTER OF GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

ADVT

QC first to dump in landfill

By Alcuin Papa
and Nelson F. Flores

THE SANITARY landfill in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) town, Rizal has virtually opened for business and Quezon City has the privilege of being the first to dump its trash in the controversial site.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday confirmed that dumping in the landfill has begun and announced that the facility will be fully operational next week with the completion of a materials reduction facility (MRF) at the site.

"In a week or two, we can fully use the landfill once everything has been settled," Abalos said.

In a news conference yesterday, Abalos also said Quezon City garbage would be the first to be dumped in the site.

But Abalos cautioned they cannot as yet "dump all the garbage in the metropolis there at the same time."

"We will do it in stages," he added.

The MMDA and Quezon City government have not agreed on which route dump trucks would use in going to and from the site. But the MMDA admitted the landfill has received a total of 800 tons of residual waste.

Abalos said the garbage came mostly from Quezon City since it is nearest the Rodriguez landfill.

Fearing traffic congestion, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte is reportedly against the idea of using the traffic-prone Commonwealth Avenue as the main route of the dump trucks.

But Abalos assured that talks between MMDA general manager Jaime Paz and Belmonte are proceeding smoothly.

Recently, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the release of P40 million for the construction of the MRF, a garbage-processing facility where garbage is sorted out, leaving residual waste to be disposed of at the site.

Once the MRF is operational, the 17-hectare landfill is capable of receiving 2,000 tons of garbage a day, according to the agreement between the MMDA and Rodriguez town government.

Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo said those protesting the setting up of the controversial dumpsite in the municipality do not have the support of the public and have no legal basis to oppose landfill operation.

"That is the reason why San Mateo Regional Trial Court Judge Jose Reyes Jr. rejected the petition of the MMAB (Mamamayan ng Montalban Ayaw sa Basura) for a temporary restraining order against the landfill," Cuerpo said.

The MMAB, through its legal counsel, Celestino Alcantara, earlier vowed to stop the landfill operation.

Alcantara said they would ask Judge Reyes, the same judge who rejected MMAB's petition for a temporary restraining order, to issue an injunction against the operation of the landfill.

He said the MMAB is not against the project per se. He said what the group is really objecting to is the operation of the landfill without an environmental clearance certificate.

Alcantara said Cuerpo should have first secured an ECC from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources before going ahead with the landfill operation.

Though Cuerpo admitted the municipal government is still working on securing the ECC, he stressed that the absence of the certificate is a "mere technicality."

"We are confident the DENR will issue the ECC anytime soon," Cuerpo said.

Cuerpo said he is also confident the landfill will live up to its sanitary expectations.

"We built something better and more environmentally friendly," Cuerpo said of the dumpsite. "A sanitary landfill has more stringent standards when it comes to waste management, compared to a controlled dumpsite. In fact, the environmental standards, used as gauge in the construction of the RSL, surpass even national standards."

The landfill is located in Sitio Lukutang Malaki, Barangay San Isidro, a remote, mountainous part of Rodriguez.

A swindling bank and a corrupt police agency

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE BANGKO Sentral is reportedly dragging its foot in investigating a medium-size bank whose officials are allegedly involved in swindling insurance companies.

One of the victimized companies, Fortune Insurance, has filed a case against the Asiatrust Bank with the central bank.

The insurance firm alleged that Asiatrust Bank's managers had cleared checks deposited by a syndicate that reportedly handles claims filed with insurance companies.

***

According to Fortune Insurance, the modus operandi involved getting a client to file a claim with his insurance company after, say, his car was damaged in a road accident.

An adjuster in cahoots with the syndicate would ask the client to have his car repaired at a motor shop run by the same syndicate, the insurance firm said.

The car owner would sign the claims sheet without asking how much was paid for the repair. A check would then be issued to the client by the insurance firm without the client knowing the amount in the check. The amount in the check would be much bigger than the actual expenses incurred in the repair of the car. The client would not know this because he would have the adjuster claim the check for him.

***

The syndicate, according to the insurance firm, would then deposit the check with Asiatrust without the client's endorsement signature on the back.

The unendorsed check would be accepted because of the collusion of some bank officials with the syndicate, the insurance firm said.

The firm said that after sometime the syndicate would cash the check.

***

Fortune Insurance said that the syndicate defrauded it of hundreds of thousands of pesos.

The insurance firm's management said that it was making the alleged fraud public so other insurance companies similarly victimized would file cases with the Bangko Sentral.

"Up to now, the central bank is moving slowly against Asiatrust," said an official of the insurance firm.

Calling Central Bank Gov. Rafael Buenaventura!

***

If you have an administrative complaint against a cop, don't file it with the Internal Affairs Service of the Philippine National Police.

File the complaint with a similar unit within the PNP, with the People's Law Enforcement Board, or the National Police Commission.

I know that those other agencies are just as slow in hearing complaints against cops from aggrieved citizens; but, at least, your complaint might get a fair shake.

***

At the IAS, your complaint might not have a chance of prospering if you don't have the money to pay off the investigators and hearing officers there.

I should know. I helped a couple file an administrative complaint against an abusive Manila policeman with the IAS. I now regret having suggested to the couple, Rodrigo and Lennie Evardone, to file the case with the IAS.

The Evardone couple came to me at "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" public service program after they were allegedly beaten black and blue and jailed by SPO4 Cesar Teneros of the Manila City Hall detachment.

Their fault? They tried to play Good Samaritans to a woman passenger of a taxicab that figured in an accident. Rodrigo and Lennie said they saw another woman, who turned out to be Teneros' wife, allegedly robbing the accident victim.

***

As is my wont as host of the public service radio-TV show, I accompanied the Evardones to the IAS offices where they had a confrontation with the police sergeant.

During that confrontation, Teneros boldly announced when he was told that he might be dismissed for oppressing the couple: *"Ipapuputol ko ang ulo ko kapag na-dismiss ako* (I would have my head chopped off if I got dismissed)."

He sounded so sure that the case against him would be dismissed. Now I know why.

***

The Evardones came back to me to complain that the hearing officers assigned to the case, lawyers Elmer Rejano and Danilo Zapanta, were insisting that they get a certain Atty. Milleres to represent them in the summary hearing.

Complainants in an administrative case need not be represented by a lawyer.

It's been 11 months now since the couple filed the case against Teneros with the IAS. But, no decision has yet been made when a summary hearing is supposed to last for a maximum of three months. *Kaya nga tinawag na* summary hearing!

***

According to the Evardones, Milleres asked for P15,000 in acceptance fee, and another amount for his every appearance.

Rodrigo and Lennie, who both work in a nightclub as supervisors, said they didn't hire Milleres because they couldn't afford him.

And because they haven't hired Milleres, they're afraid Teneros might be acquitted.

***

I had thought all along that IAS could be trusted as an agency that tries administrative cases against policemen. IAS is patterned after the internal affairs office of the police departments in the United States. The internal affairs office is the most feared unit in every police department in the United States.

I was wrong about our IAS because I didn't reckon with the fact that most of its staff is composed of policemen. And since they operate within a corrupt system, they themselves are corrupt.

39 dzRH. . .

(From page A19)

and some of us have been working for the station for a very long time," another said. "There is a perception that the radio station is being mismanaged, which could account for the supposed financial losses."

Sources said the radio station was put on the selling block a few months ago because of financial difficulties. But recently, senior anchors Deo Macalma and Joe Taruc were given majority shares, effectively preempting the sale of the station, the sources said.

Among those fired were managing editor Reggie Espiritu, assistant managing editor Fernan Enverga and other senior reporters. Spared were Milky Rigonan, who covers Malacañang; Sonny Casulia, Philippine National Police; Rommel Fuertes, Florante Rosales and deskpersons Malou Cabral and Mae Binauhan.

Those fired said they were considering filing legal cases to question their retrenchment after they found out that those who filed cases against management in last year's retrenchment had won their cases.

HOWEVER MUCH YOU'VE GOT, YOU STILL BREATHE THE SAME AIR.
RICH OR POOR, WE ALL SUFFER EQUALLY FROM THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF AIR POLLUTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. REPORT SMOKE-BELCHING VEHICLES TO BANTAY-USOK AT 925 3333 OR 925 5555. BECAUSE IT'S ABOUT TIME WE OPENED OUR MOUTHS.
BANTAY-USOK

SPACE DONATED BY THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

AYALA CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24-HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS 729 - 7777
reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

All Digital Sound

GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)

1	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE LORD OF THE RINGS In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	AMERICAN ADOBO In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4

1	THE OTHERS In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	AMERICAN ADOBO In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	CORKY ROMANO In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	ZOOLANDER In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

Art Film

GREENBELT

1	.MOV - THE DIGITAL MOVIE FEST In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE OTHERS In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	WEEKEND W/ POPS JAN. 25 & 26 9:00 PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN THX In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE OTHERS In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	AMERICAN ADOBO In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	CORKY ROMANO In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	THE OTHERS
2 (SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
3 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 GOLD (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	CORKY ROMANO
6 GOLD (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
9	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
10	AMERICAN ADOBO

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	HAPLOS
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	BUKO PANDAN

METROPOLIS star
Tel. 850 4285

1	CORKY ROMANO
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
4	BUKO PANDAN
5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7512010 to 13

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BURLESK KING
2	HUBOG

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	
2	PANINDA
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	PANINDA
A	GIRL FEVER

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
3	CLOSED
4	GIRL FEVER

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	LORD OF THE RING
5	CORKY ROMANO
6	AMERICAN ADOBO
7 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 (SDDS)	THE OTHERS
9 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
4 (SDDS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	HUBOG
6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	BUKO PANDAN
9	BURLESK KING

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
3	AMERICAN ADOBO
4	CORKY ROMANO
5 (SDDS)	THE OTHERS
6	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
7 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	BURLESK KING

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2	CORKY ROMANO
3 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	AMERICAN ADOBO
5 (SDDS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	MEN'S
Lords	TUKSO
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	LORD OF THE RING

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	BUKO PANDAN

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
3 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2 (DTS)	AMERICAN ADOBO
3 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	WALANG IWANAN
2	GLADIATOR
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
TEL. (045) 9821729 (Tarlac)

1	BURLESK KING
2	BUKO PANDAN
3 (DOLBY)	ZOOLANDER
4 (DTS)	ON THE LINE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2	HAPLOS
3	MY WIFE LOVER
4 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BUKO PANDAN
5	AMERICAN ADOBO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	BUKO PANDAN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	BUKO PANDAN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	BURLESK KING
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	BUKO PANDAN

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
3	LORD OF THE RINGS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER
2 (DTS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BUKO PANDAN
2	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
3	BURLESK KING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BURLESK KING
2	ZOOLANDER
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 (DTS ES)	MAHAL KITA : FINAL ANSWER

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

CMG INTERNATIONAL
For reservations, call: 751-2010 to 13

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
NOW SHOWING

OCEAN ELEVEN

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
State-Of-The-Art-Cinemas
NOW SHOWING
e-mail : hto@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA
632-6118-16 / 633-7841 loc. 379

THX

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	MAHAL KITA . . .
6	THE OTHERS
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	AMERICAN ADOBO
9	CORKY ROMANO
10	ZOOLANDER

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	MAHAL KITA . . .
4	THE OTHERS
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	CORKY ROMANO
7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

METRO EAST
632-6118-16 / 633-7641

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	LORD OF THE RINGS OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	MAHAL KITA . . .
5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES ZOOLANDER

NOVALICHES
936-3229 TO 31

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	MAHAL KITA . . .
6	MAHAL KITA . . .
7	ZOOLANDER
8	AMERICAN ADOBO

IMUS
(046) 471-8100

1 7	LORD OF THE RINGS
2 8	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	MAHAL KITA . . .
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	THE OTHERS

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453 / 0458

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	GLASS HOUSE
4	GIRL FEVER
5	ON THE LINE
6	SPY GAME

ILOILO
(033) 336-9077 / 9078

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	SPY GAME
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	AMERICAN ADOBO
5	EARTHQUAKE
6	WALANG IWANAN

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	AMERICAN ADOBO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	CORKY ROMANO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE OTHERS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	H'WAG KANG KIKIBO / ORIGINAL SIN
ODEON	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
ODEON-2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
ROBEN	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE HOLE / EARTHQUAKE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BUKO PANDAN
REMAR	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
REMAR-2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CORKY ROMANO
CINEMA-2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-2	BUKO PANDAN
CINEMA-3	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BURLESK KING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-8	WALANG IWANAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ZOOLANDER
CINEMA-12	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-14	SPY GAME
CINEMA-15	AMERICAN ADOBO

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	AMERICAN ADOBO
CINEMA-2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-3	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-5	CORKY ROMANO
CINEMA-6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	THE OTHERS
2	CORKY ROMANO
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	AMERICAN ADOBO
5	LORD OF THE RINGS
6	MAHAL KITA . . .
7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	BURLESK KING

SM CENTERPOINT
7140322 -7161416

1	MAHAL KITA . . .
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	CORKY ROMANO
5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
6	BURLESK KING
7	THE OTHERS
8	ZOOLANDER
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	BUKO PANDAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	CORKY ROMANO
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	ZOOLANDER
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	THE OTHERS
6	MAHAL KITA . . .
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	MAHAL KITA . . .
11	BURLESK KING
12	BUKO PANDAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	THE OTHERS
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	ZOOLANDER
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
7	ON THE LINE
8	BURLESK KING
9	MAHAL KITA . . .
10	CORKY ROMANO
11	GLASS HOUSE
12	AMERICAN ADOBO

SM MEGAMALL
6331801 • 6329401

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	THE OTHERS
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	CORKY ROMANO
6	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
7	BURLESK KING
8	ZOOLANDER
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	MAHAL KITA . . .
11	MAHAL KITA . . .
12	GLASS HOUSE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9205452

1	THE OTHERS
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	MAHAL KITA . . .
4	ZOOLANDER
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
9	BURLESK KING
10	SPY GAME
11	BUKO PANDAN
12	CORKY ROMANO

SM SOUTHMALL
8069008 • 8066782

1	THE OTHERS
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	CORKY ROMANO
5	BURLESK KING
6	BUKO PANDAN
7	MAHAL KITA . . .
8	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
9	ZOOLANDER
10	AMERICAN ADOBO

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	GLASS HOUSE
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	BURLESK KING
6	AMERICAN ADOBO
7	SPY GAME
8	LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	MUSKETEERS
2	CLOSED
3	SPY GAME
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	EARTHQUAKE
6	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
7	CLOSED
8	ON THE LINE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7126015

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	ZOOLANDER
4	AMERICAN ADOBO
5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
6	MAHAL KITA . . .

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8204975

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	THE OTHERS
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	MAHAL KITA . . .

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820805

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	MAHAL KITA . . .

SM CITY TUTUBAN
2514302

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	AMERICAN ADOBO
3	MAHAL KITA . . .
4	THE OTHERS

SM CITY DAVAO
2974004

1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2	BURLESK KING
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	WALANG IWANAN
5	AMERICAN AOBO
6	GLASS HOUSE

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1
2

SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

Pray for Rio

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I ENJOIN you all to please keep on praying for **Rio Diaz Cojuangco**'s complete recovery.

I'm saddened to hear that her cancer cells have spread to her lungs and liver. I had the chance to talk to her late last year and I still can't get over the fact that despite her condition, there was not a trace of sadness in her eyes.

Leaving everything in God's hands is what fuels Rio's desire to be a light to everyone even during her darkest hours. Her unwavering faith keeps her glowing from deep within.

"Gosh," I told her, "I'm the one who looks sick and not you."

She even managed to laugh about her cancer. "I used to buy all kinds of hair tonic to make my hair thicker," she said. "I didn't know that chemotherapy would do the trick. God surely has a wonderful sense of humor. But when I lost my hair for a while I bought nice hats so I'd still be fashionable.

"It's bad enough that I'm sick but it would be worse if I *look* sick."

If only everyone had as much *joie de vivre* as she does, each day would be one big celebration. For someone like Rio who loves life and lives love, there can never really be an ending, just a continuation.

True Faith's unquestioning faith

I URGE you to get a copy of the latest album of True Faith, "True Faith LIVE Myxed Emotions at HaloHalo," from EMI Virgin Phils.

It has 16 tracks including the classics "Perfect," "Huwag Na Lang Kaya," "Alaala," and other songs from their previous albums. The first single is "Paglisan," a duet with **Cookie Chua**. It also has a riveting sax solo by the very talented **Dix Lucero**.

The track "Basta Ngumiti Ka Lang" is a favorite of their vocalist **Medwyn Marfil**, and also mine.

Medwyn happens to be my ever-reliable textmate. I fondly call him Etoile, French for star, because he guides my way and his songs serve as the soundtrack of my life. Whenever I'm feeling out of sorts, I text him to send me his original quotable quotes. He always hits the right spot.

One of his lines goes like this: "Have an unquestionable faith that never questions fate. And with faith, fate will fall into your hat. And you can never question that."

Like me and other true-blue romantics, Medwyn knows that there is something mystical about putting down our random thoughts on paper. Even when it's the computer age already, the power of the written word cannot be underestimated.

Catch True Faith on Jan. 31 at the Music Warehouse.

Behemoth Talents, the agency that manages True Faith, is looking for bands, singers and other musicians, and DJs. Interested parties may call Andy Barce at 0918-920-3902.

Reader's corner

"Hi! I sent you this e-mail because I wanted to share something about **John (Estrada)** and **Vanessa (del Bianco)**. I am not a great fan of John's or (ex-wife) Janice (de Belen) but I really hated what he did to Janice. My mom and I share the same sentiment.

"And what irritates me the most is the way he acts on his noontime show everytime Vanessa's name is mentioned.

"So here's the story. After Christmas, I think that was the 27th, we went to a private residential estate and resort, open only to lot owners and shareholders. We were in the clubhouse and I was talking to one of their sales managers. I asked him if there were actors and actresses who owned shares or property there. He told me **Paolo Bediones** has a lot, **Dina Bonnevie** owns a share, and so on.

"Then he added, 'John Estrada and Vanessa were here last night.' I said, really? They stayed overnight *daw*. I said, do they own a property or a share here? He said no but their actor friend does.

"The place was very private and very nice. You couldn't come in unless you owned a share or you were a member's guest." ***Name witheld upon request.***

For feedback, e mailfriends at dsquare@yahoo.com or wateringhole2000 @yahoo.com

Anton at Chatterbox

SING-ALONG master and singer Anton makes his musical debut tonight in "Anton Reigns," 9:30 p.m. at Chatterbox Robinson's Galleria.

Billed as a tribute show to his favorite artist, Anton, who has made a name for himself as the sound-alike of Regine Velasquez, will render the latter's hits.

Anton will also sing "Queen of the Night," "Superman," "A Piece of Sky" and "Muntik na Kitang Minahal," making him one of the most in-demand performers at The Library.

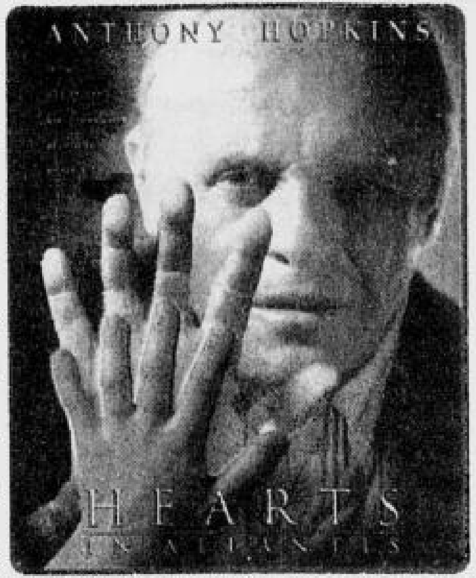
The show will also feature Anton's fellow stand-up comedian Martin Mijares, Opus Band and a very special guest appearance of Regine herself.

"Anton Reigns" will be directed by Andrew de Real of The Library.

For reservations and ticket information, call 718-0661 or 522-2484.

ANTON

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING



HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
PG 13
January 29, 2002
Tuesday-7:30 p.m.
@ Robinsons Movieworld Galleria
Cinema 6
THIS PREMIERE IS STRICTLY INVITATIONAL.
REGULAR SCREENING BEGINS JANUARY 30, 2002

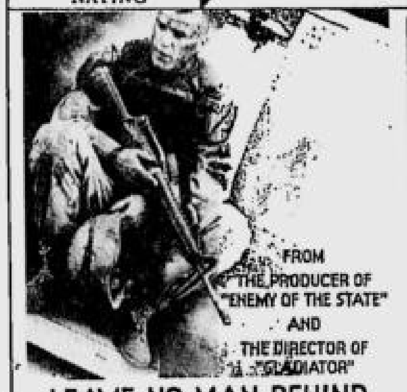
THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1
BEHIND ENEMY LINES P13
11:40/ 1:55/ 4:10/ 6:25/ 8:50
Midnight Show OCEAN ELEVEN P13 11:00 PM
CINEMA 2
AMERICAN ADOBO - R18
12:00/ 2:25/ 4:50/ 7:15/ 9:40
Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating).
Reserved Seating: P120.00 - After 5:00pm; Saturday, Sunday, Holidays.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 721-0573
MUSIC MUSEUM
SINO KA BA, JOSE RIZAL? (A Musical Stage Play)
January 31 3:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

AMERICAN ADOBO - R18 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40	OCEAN'S ELEVEN - P13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 11:40, 3:00, 6:20, 9:40
BEHIND ENEMY LINES - P13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	CORKY ROMANO - P13 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30	OCEAN'S ELEVEN - P13 11:20, 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



FROM THE PRODUCER OF "ENEMY OF THE STATE" AND THE DIRECTOR OF "GLADIATOR"

LEAVE NO MAN BEHIND
BLACK HAWK DOWN
sony.com/BlackHawkDown
REVOLUTION STUDIOS

All star cast!
"The best war movie I've seen!"
-- Larry King, CNN

From Ridley Scott, acclaimed director of GLADIATOR and Jerry Bruckheimer, producer of PEARL HARBOR comes a war epic voted by *Time Magazine* as one of the best films of the year.

The all-star cast includes the brightest names in young Hollywood: Josh Hartnett of PEARL HARBOR, Ewan McGregor of MOULIN ROUGE and Orlando Bloom, the well-loved Legolas in LORD OF THE RINGS.

Columbia Pictures' BLACK HAWK DOWN is the true story of elite American soldiers on a mission to stop a ruthless Somalian warlord in 1993.

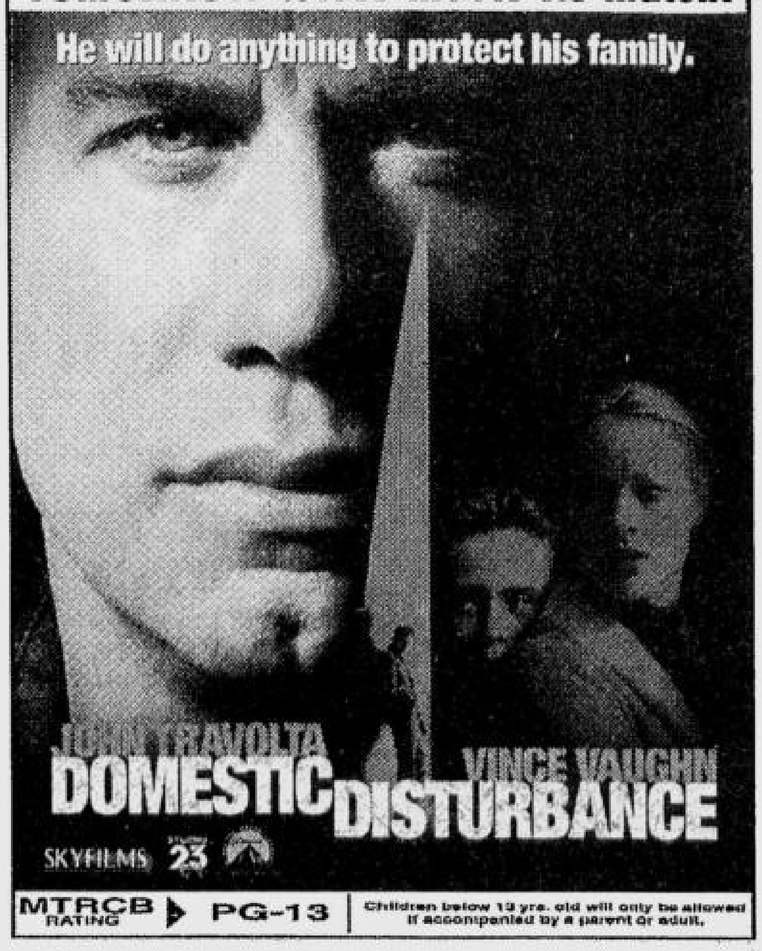
Don't miss this must-see movie event, described by CNN's Larry King as "the best war movie I've ever seen."

OPENS TOMORROW !

AYALA CINEMAS and ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION PHILIPPINES in cooperation with WHAT DRIVES YOU CALTEX
cordially invite you to the Advance Screening of
KATE & LEOPOLD
January 29, 2002 Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.
GLORIETTA 4, CINEMA 3

also brought to you by:
T.G.I. FRIDAY'S SKYFILMS
Strictly Invitational.

TOMORROW terror meets its match!

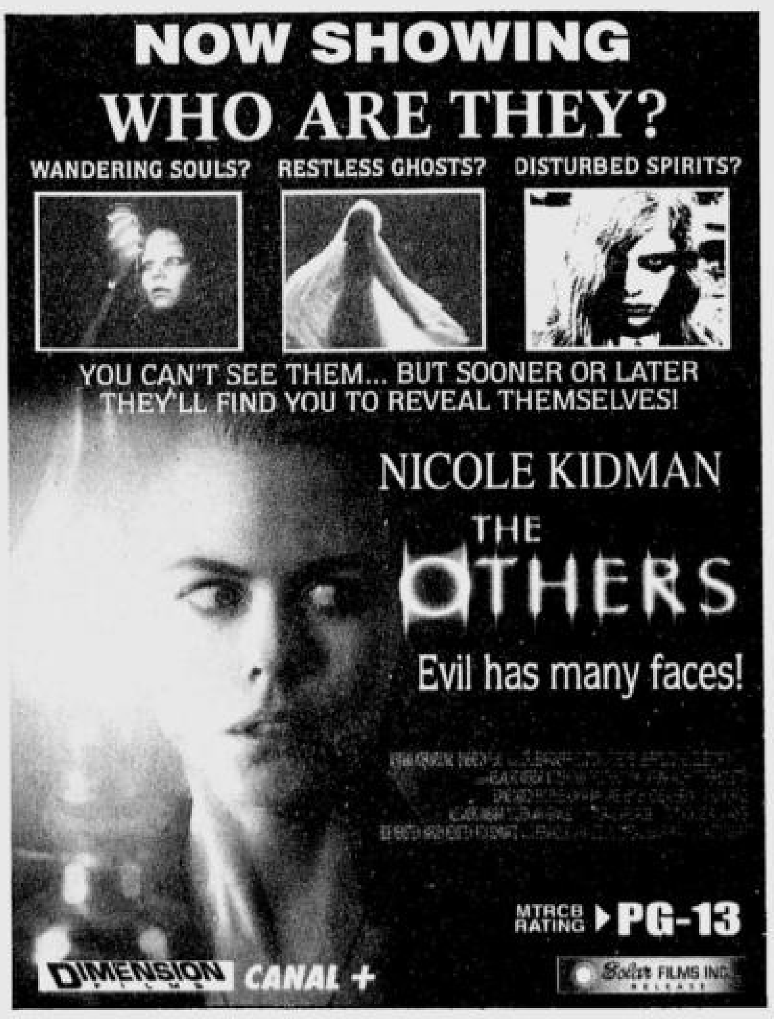


MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

OPENS JANUARY 30 !
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"TWO THUMBS UP."
-EBERT & ROEPER
"★★★★"
-Jeff Craig, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW
"A CAPTIVATING MOVIE EXPERIENCE. ANTHONY HOPKINS CREATES A FASCINATING MYSTIQUE."
-David Sheehan, KCBS-LOS ANGELES
"A QUIETLY POWERFUL, BEAUTIFULLY BURNISHED DEPTH CHARGE OF A MOVIE."
-Jay Carr, BOSTON GLOBE

ANTHONY HOPKINS
HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CASTLE ROCK

NOW SHOWING
WHO ARE THEY?
WANDERING SOULS? RESTLESS GHOSTS? DISTURBED SPIRITS?



ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

Richard and Regine play very dissimilar characters

FIRST TEAMUP. Richard Gomez and Regine Velasquez in "Ikaw Lamang, Hanggang Ngayon."

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

YAM Laranas' first two feature films have been distinguished by dynamic visuals and a very "now" feel, but have been deficient in the storytelling department.

We joined other reviewers in urging him to get somebody good to write the scripts for his next films, hoping that the combination of his vivid visuals and an interesting story would result in a noteworthy and integral film.

We trust that that's what we'll be getting in Laranas' new movie, the **Regine Velasquez-Richard Gomez** starrer, which is written by **Mel Mendoza-del Rosario**.

Plot premise? Katherine (Regine) hides her good looks in idiosyncratic clothes, and her insecurity in nervous, erratic mannerisms. She sorts out the mail at the Manila Post Office.

For his part, Ryan (Richard) is a golf instructor. He falls in love easily, but is incapable of total commitment. One day, these two very dissimilar people meet in a park—and fall in love.

That's only the start of the story, of course, so we'll have to see the finished movie when it opens on Feb. 13, to see if the Laranas-del Rosario creative combination is a winner.

Of course, Regine and Richard will also be doing all they can to bolster the movie's chances of success. This early, onlookers say that there's "good chemistry" between the two stars. Now, if only that agreeable feeling of stellar compatibility translates into big box office for the two stars' first cinematic pairing . . .

Other credits: Editing and production design, **Manet Dayrit**; cinematography by Laranas and **Sammy Aranzamendez**; music by **Gerdie Fracisco**. The Viva Films production costars **Candy Pangilinan**, **Tanya Garcia** and **Angel Jacob**.

Willie's back

AFTER almost a year of making himself scarce on ABS-CBN, **Willie Revillame** is guesting on Channel 2's sexy sitcom, "Attagirl," at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 30.

Willie plays Toti, the wacky new "partner in crime" of Pedring (**Boyong Baytion**). Is Wllie's guesting stint a sign that he's been "forgiven" by ABS-CBN management, and will be given a fresh start at the TV station? We sure hope so.

More to the point, we trust that Willie's hiatus has given him time to rethink his priorities and responsibilities as a television talent. There is room on TV for a "refocused" Willie Revillame.

Movies on TV

PROMISING films on HBO next month: Feb. 1, Friday at 10:30 p.m., "Single White Female."

Feb. 2, Saturday at 1:30 p.m., "Awakenings."

Feb. 3, Sunday at 11:30 a.m., "A Civil Action."

Feb. 6, Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., "Slap Shot."

Welcome move

KUDOS to Manila Mayor **Lito Atienza** and some councilors for moving to reduce by half the 30-percent amusement tax being levied on ticket sales for local films shown in Manila theaters: The reduction will be accomplished by way of an ordinance authored by Councilors **Miles Roces** and **Boy Laxa** that will be filed by Councilor **Kim Atienza**.

"This is our way of helping the local movie industry, especially during these economically trying times," Mayor Atienza explains. "We hope this encourages local filmmakers to come up with quality movies. This would increase viewership and income for producers—and result in additional income for the city government."

The planned reduction will apply only to Filipino movies. The amusement tax on ticket sales for foreign movies will remain at 30 percent.

In a related development, Atienza says that, starting this year, the city government will revive the mid-year Manila Film Festival, which has not been held for the past two years.

COMPOSER Jesse Lucas (seated) confers with the cast (from left) Joy Soler de Castro, Famy Aguinaldo, Ding Mercado, Eladio Pamaran, Roeder, Miguel Vera and Nonie Buencamino.

Historical musical

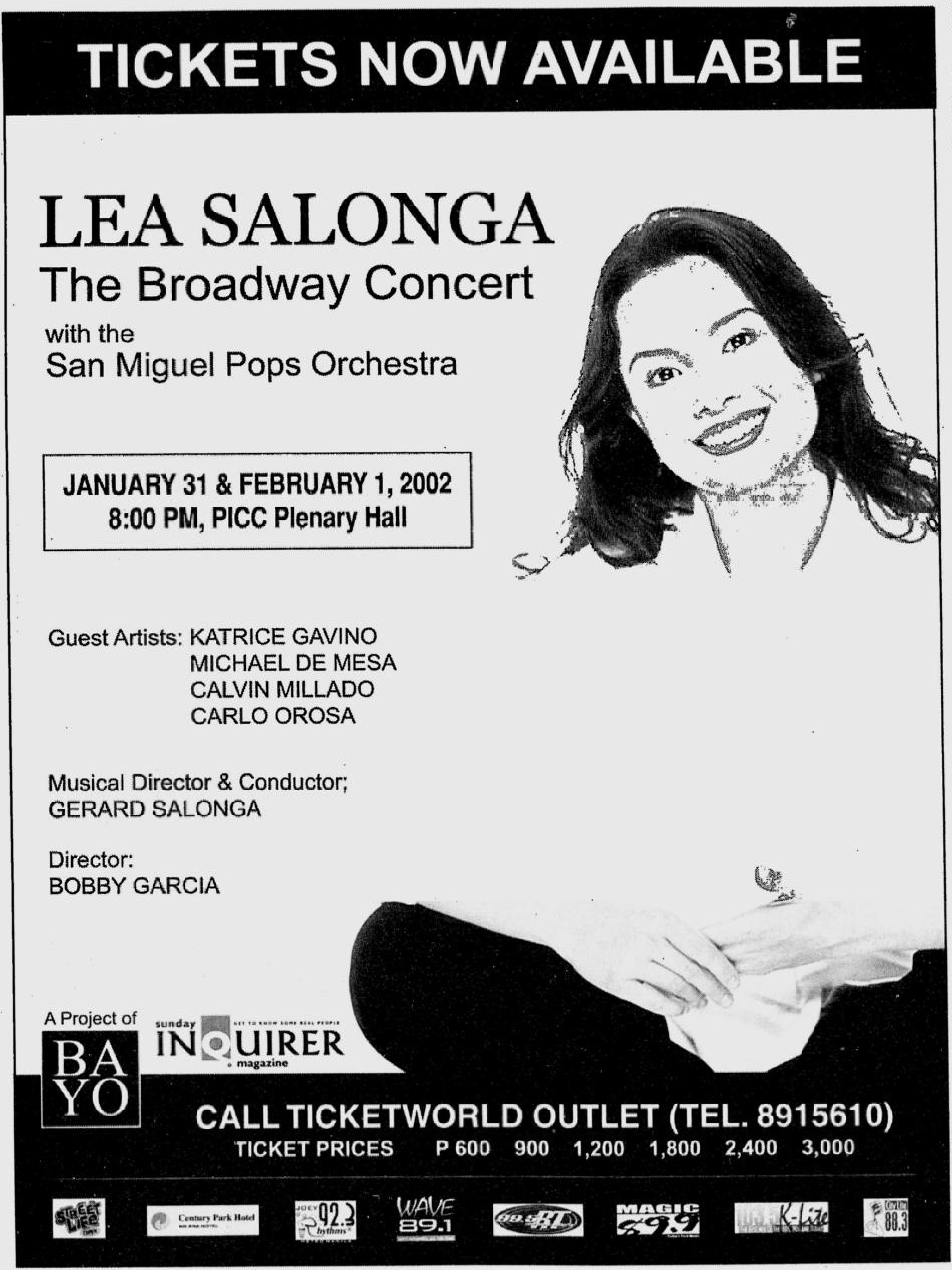
TANGHALANG Pilipino presents its latest offering for its 15th season, the historical musical "Ang Pagpatay kay Luna."

The cast is composed of Joy Soler de Castro who plays the dual role of Inang Bayan and Doña Trinidad, Famy Aguinaldo, Ding Mercado as Pedro Paterno, Eladio Pamaran who alternates as Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Roeder as Felipe Buencamino, Miguel Vera as Aguinaldo and Nonie Buencamino as Gen. Antonio Luna.

The second in a planned trilogy by Paul Dumol on the leaders and events of the Philippine Revolution, this pop opera is the story of the assassination of Antonio Luna, Lieutenant General of the Philippine Army and the Assistant Secretary of War of the Philippine Republic.

Libretto by Paul Dumol. Composer is Jesse Lucas.

The musical opens Feb. 1 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (Little Theater). Evening shows at 8 p.m. on Feb. 1, 15 and 22, 2:30 p.m. matinees on Feb. 2, 3, 16, 17, 23 and 24. Tickets are available at the gate (832-3704/ 832-3661) and at all Ticketworld outlets (891-5610 or 891-5743).



TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

LEA SALONGA
The Broadway Concert
with the
San Miguel Pops Orchestra

JANUARY 31 & FEBRUARY 1, 2002
8:00 PM, PICC Plenary Hall

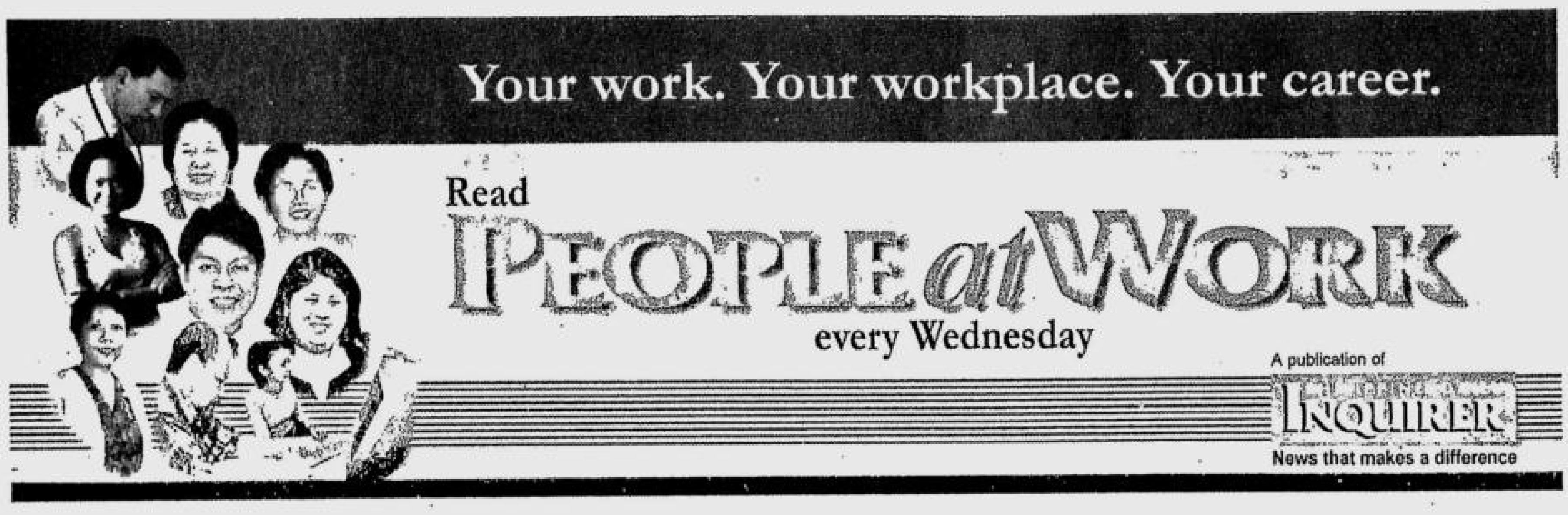
Guest Artists: KATRICE GAVINO
MICHAEL DE MESA
CALVIN MILLADO
CARLO OROSA

Musical Director & Conductor;
GERARD SALONGA

Director:
BOBBY GARCIA

A Project of BAYO sunday INQUIRER magazine

CALL TICKETWORLD OUTLET (TEL. 8915610)
TICKET PRICES P 600 900 1,200 1,800 2,400 3,000



Your work. Your workplace. Your career.

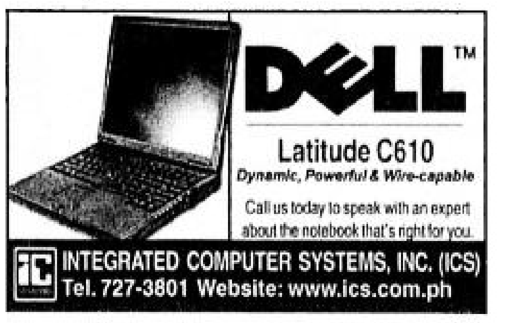
Read PEOPLE at WORK every Wednesday

A publication of INQUIRER News that makes a difference

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2002
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Raul O. Marcelo, Editor ■ Corrie S. Narisma, Assistant Editor


DELL™
Latitude C610
Dynamic, Powerful & Wire-capable
Call us today to speak with an expert about the notebook that's right for you.
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC. (ICS)
Tel. 727-3801 Website: www.ics.com.ph

21 banks post increases in bad loans

By Elena R. Torrijos

TWENTY-ONE of the country's 43 commercial banks posted higher levels of soured loans in the fourth quarter last year from the previous quarter with United Coconut Planters Bank registering the biggest rise, the banks' quarterly published statements of condition showed.

UCPB, the country's ninth largest lender, saw its non-performing loan (NPL) ratio jump 9.5 percentage points to 32.25 percent at the close of the fourth quarter from 22.82 percent in the third quarter.

This came on the back of a P6.25-billion increase in bad loans to P20.877 billion from P14.629 billion while the bank's total loan portfolio remained at P64 billion.

UCPB, which has been sequestered by the government, has seen its capital base eroded by losses, largely from provisions for loan-loss provisions, and needs a capital infusion to meet the 10-percent minimum capital adequacy ratio set by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Other banks, however, still had higher NPL ratios than UCPB. As of the fourth quarter, TA Bank of the Philippines, United Overseas Bank, and Philippine National Bank posted NPL ratios of 95 percent, 69.72 percent and 46 percent, respectively.

TA Bank Philippines' NPL ratio was the same as the previous quarter while UOB's was up by three percentage points. On the other hand, PNB, which may soon be rehabilitated, reduced its NPL ratio by seven percentage points as its bad loans fell by P5.57 billion to P45.6 billion.

Coming in at fifth place, Bank of Commerce posted a slight decline in its NPL ratio to 31.72 percent from 32.81 percent.

Philippine Bank of Communications saw its NPL ratio rise to 29.58 percent from 25.26 percent because of a P500-million increase in bad loans and a reduction in its total loan portfolio.

Rounding out the Top 10 were Prudential Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines, Global Bank, and Export and Industry Bank. The first two banks saw slight declines in their NPL ratios to 25.97 percent and 25.14 from 26.55 percent and 26.27 percent, while the last two registered significant increases to 24.21 percent and 23.18 percent from 21.85 percent and 21.96 percent, respectively.

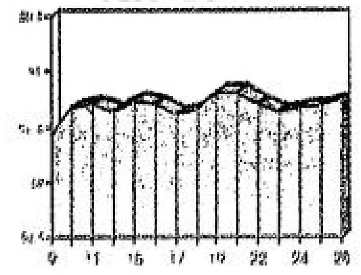
Notably, Union Bank saw its NPL ratio drop by eight percentage points to 10.93 percent as a result of a P9.7-billion increase in its total loan portfolio to P26.6 billion from P16.9 billion.

Traders Royal Bank would have been among the banks with the highest NPL ratios except that it got an exemption from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas requirement to publish its statement of condition for the fourth quarter. In the previous quarter, TRB, which is being absorbed by Bank of Commerce, had the third highest NPL ratio at 65.55 percent.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



JANUARY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
P51.24 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 28, 2002
Y134.78 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 28, 2002
GOLD: $279.50/280.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 28, 2002

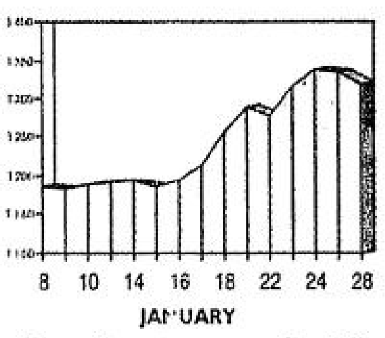
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.155001	1.000000	51.2920
Japan	Yen	0.008599	0.007445	0.3819
United Kingdom	Pound	1.628321	1.409800	72.3115
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.148267	0.128370	6.5844
Switzerland	Franc	0.677976	0.586992	30.1080
Canada	Dollar	0.717169	0.620925	31.8485
Singapore	Dollar	0.630184	0.545613	27.9856
Australia	Dollar	0.596283	0.516262	26.4801
Bahrain	Dinar	3.063827	2.652661	136.0603
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.308001	0.266667	13.6779
Brunei	Dollar	0.626356	0.542299	27.8156
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000096	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.026220	0.022701	1.1644
UAE	Dirham	0.314543	0.272331	13.9684
Korea	Won	0.000877	0.000759	0.0389
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.865800	44.4086
Brazil	Real	0.481251	0.416667	21.3717
Denmark	Kroner	0.134421	0.116382	5.9695
India	Rupee	0.023963	0.020747	1.0642
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.304027	0.263227	13.5014
Mexico	New Peso	0.126372	0.109413	5.6120
New Zealand	Dollar	0.489200	0.423549	21.7247
Norway	Kroner	0.127360	0.110268	5.6559
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019267	0.016681	0.8556
South Africa	Rand	0.101843	0.088176	4.5227
Sweden	Kroner	0.108310	0.093775	4.8099
Syria	Pound	0.022514	0.019493	0.9998
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.033038	0.028604	1.4672
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001514	001311	0.0672

STOCK MARKET

Shares fall 1.3%

SHARE prices fell 1.3 percent yesterday as the market corrected after rallying in the previous week, analysts said.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

"We have to give the market some room to absorb certain gains considering that some stocks have gained 10-20 percent (last week.) This is a healthy correction," said Mike Ordinanza of PCIB Securities Inc.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 17.92 points to close at 1,319.23.

"This is a very healthy correction. This will allow more players to participate in the market," said Henry Ong of KGI Securities Inc., adding that sentiment remained bullish as long as interest rates stayed low.

Volume turnover fell to 883.83 million shares but value rose to P2.47 billion from 2.14 billion shares worth P1.19 billion the previous trading day.

PLDT dropped P5 to P505 while Ayala Corp. lost 30 centavos to P6.10.

Bank of the Philippine Islands also lost P3 to P64.50

AFP

Tarlac drilling falters

The government's effort to find additional sources of local fuel may have been dampened as an exploration well in Tarlac reportedly failed to flow natural gas, an industry source familiar with the matter told the INQUIRER yesterday.

However, the energy department reported that PNOC-EDC was still awaiting results of tests on Victoria-3.

The Victoria venture is part of efforts to find and develop other natural gas reserves aside from the 2.7 trillion cubic feet in the Malampaya field.

"I don't think they would drill another well (for further confirmation)," the source told the INQUIRER.

He added that previous drillings and tests have failed to confirm the presence of a natural gas reserve big enough for commercial development.

The Tarlac prospect was believed to contain as much 300 billion cubic feet of gas.

An all-Filipino consortium started the onshore drilling last Dec. 1. This included state-run PNOC Energy Development Corp., Vulcan Industrial and Mining, Anglo Philippines, Philodrill, San Jose Oil, Oriental Petroleum and Basic Consolidated.

Fed seen halting rate cuts

WASHINGTON—The Federal Reserve may call this week for a halt to one of the most aggressive rate-cutting sprees in US history.

That was the message financial markets took from Fed Chair Alan Greenspan when he testified last week that the recession-hit US economy was turning the corner toward recovery.

"It looks like the recession is over and we are going to see more prosperous times in the future," said Richard Yamarone, chief economist at Argus Research Corp. in New York.

"I don't see anything in the data that would justify another Fed rate reduction."

Most private economists believe the Fed will opt to keep borrowing costs steady after its two-day meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday. That would mark the first regular policy-setting meeting in more than a year to end without a rate decrease.

Experts say the US central bank can safely move to the sidelines now. Overnight rates are at a 40-year low of 1.75 percent, a level that is seen as providing plenty of kick to the economy.

Each of the eight Fed meetings in 2001 resulted in a rate cut and on three occasions, policymakers eased credit between regular meetings. The 11 reductions have brought overnight rates down 4.75 percentage points since Jan. 3 last year.

When the Fed unveils its rate decision on Wednesday, 22 of 24 top bond dealers polled by Reuters expect it to announce no change in rates.

Many analysts think the Fed will hold to the view that the economic risks are tilted toward weakness. That would signal that policymakers stand ready to resume rate cuts if they need to, although economists are becoming increasingly confident the next Fed move will be a rate rise, perhaps as soon as later this year.

Just a few weeks ago, Wall Street thought the Jan. 29-30 meeting might bring one more small rate reduction.

Predictions of another cut gathered force after a Jan. 11 speech Greenspan gave in San Francisco in which he warned of "significant risks" facing the economy.

FED/B6

Sy says he's staying at iBank

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

INTERNATIONAL Exchange Bank president and chief executive officer Ramon Sy yesterday said he was staying put in his current post in one of the country's most profitable banks.

In a terse statement, Sy said: "There have been speculations over the past few days about the possibility of my joining Philippine National Bank. I would like to lay all speculations to rest. I am staying at iBank."

The government's silence on Sy's possible selection had fueled these speculations.

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president Norberto Nazareno had been insisting that the government was still discussing with the potential candidates.

The low-profile banker is a prime candidate for the post considering his nearly half-a-century experience in the industry with previous postings as country manager of Bank of America and CEO of United Coconut Planters Bank.

Tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, who was given the power to choose from a list of candidates to be prepared by the government to oversee PNB, was reportedly amenable to naming Sy as president of the cash-strapped bank.

The government and Tan were supposed to sign a definitive agreement on the rehabilitation program for PNB but this was postponed to Feb. 8, when Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho would have returned from a trip to New York where he would be joining President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Under the MOA to be signed next month, the government would convert P7.8 billion of P23.9 billion in outstanding loans to PNB into equity, P10 billion worth of government advances would be offset with PNB loans to the government, and the remaining P6.1 billion would be restructured over 10 years.

The conversion of P7.8 billion of convertible preferred shares or bonds to be held by PDIC into equity would give the government a 45-percent stake in the bank, up from 16 percent, and dilute Tan's ownership from 68 percent to 45 percent.

Since PDIC would own non-voting shares, the taipan's group would assign part of its voting rights to the national government.

Sy and Philippine Bank of Communications president Isidro Alcantara were the two bankers nominated by the government to be PNB president.

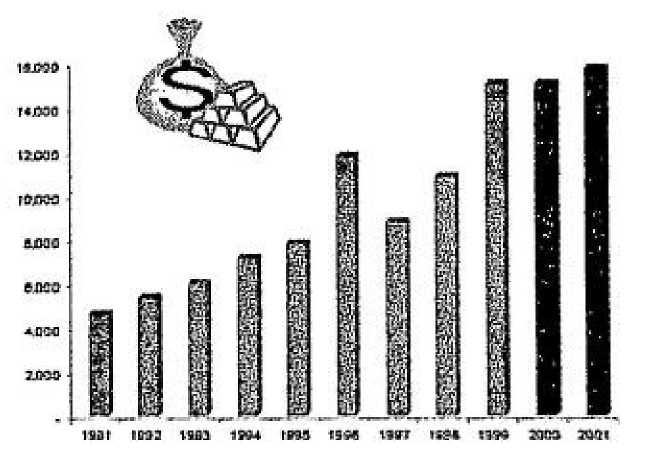
Sy was former chair of United Coconut Planters Bank before he, together with stockbroker Wilson Sy and property developer Jerry Lanuza, set up iBank several years ago.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Gross international reserves

(1991 to 2001, in$ millions)



Source: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

AFTER a drastic drop in gross international reserves in 1997 due to the Asian financial crisis, the Philippines has seen its reserves grow gradually. Last December, there was an increase of close to $1 billion in reserves following the government's fund raising activities like the euro bond issue and the dollar and yen loans. Levels of international reserves can show the health of financial sector since a high level ensures import payments and ability to defend the peso against speculative attacks.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

PLDT seen reviving $250-M bond float

By Doris C. Dumlao

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. plans to revive its $250-million bond offering to help address maturing debts this year.

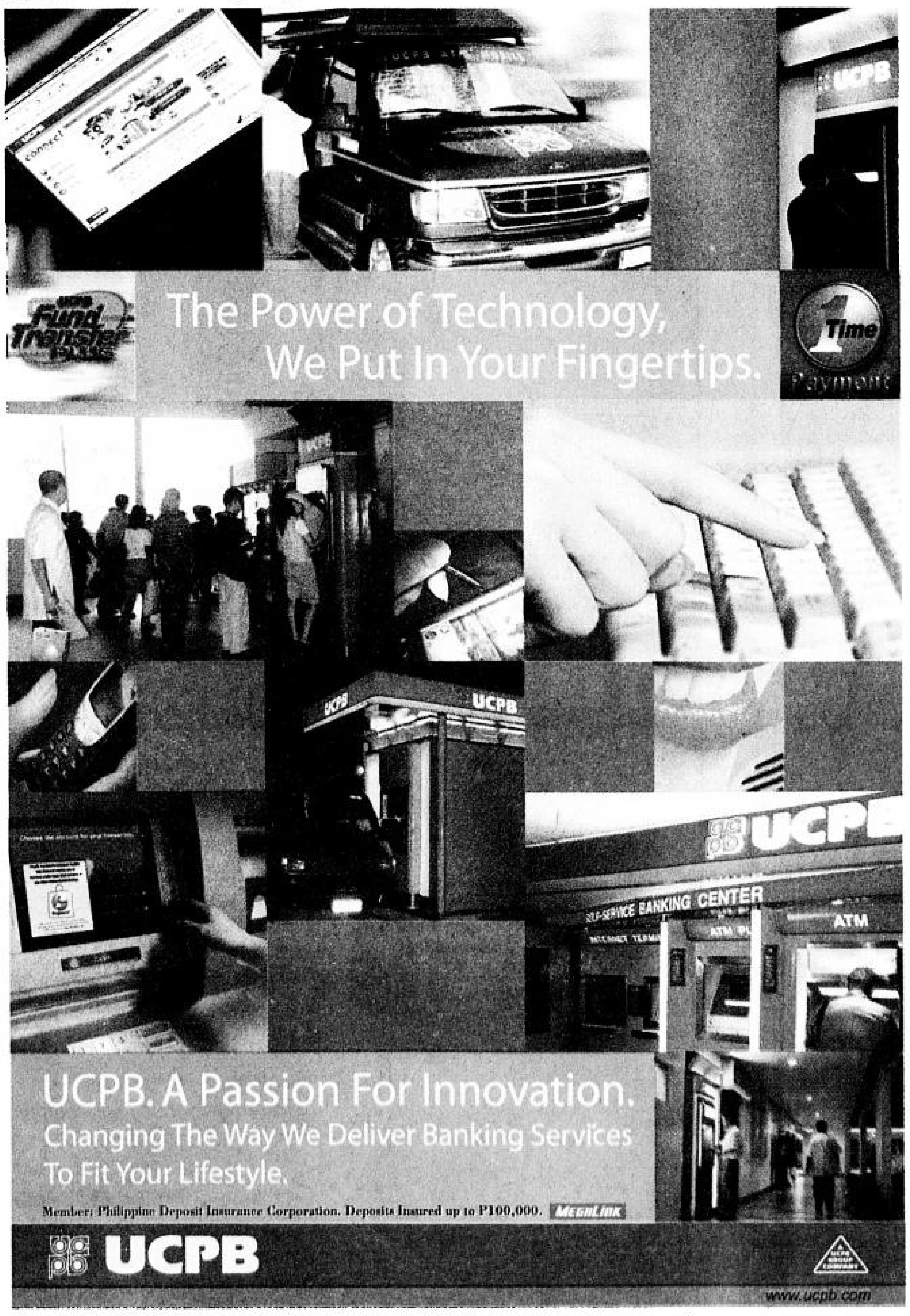
INQUIRER sources yesterday said PLDT believed that the bond float, which was shelved in September last year because of the jitters caused by the terrorist attacks in the United States, could be revived now that the global environment was improving.

The sources said PLDT noted that it could benefit from the success of the $750-million global bond offering held by the national government two weeks ago. The bond float has put the Philippines back on the investors' map and helped sustain the recovery of the local stock market since mid-November.

For this year, PLDT has some $323 million in maturing obligations.

But the sources said the company's priority would still be to generate new bank loans. Since last year, PLDT has been talking with its foreign lenders to provide additional credit line.

Other sources said the foreign banks earlier mandated to underwrite PLDT's bond float—HSBC and CS First Boston—were among the institutions being tapped for new credit lines. KFW of Germany was among the lenders that had given a favorable response.



The Power of Technology, We Put In Your Fingertips.
UCPB. A Passion For Innovation.
Changing The Way We Deliver Banking Services To Fit Your Lifestyle.
Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits Insured up to P100,000. MEGALINK
UCPB
www.ucpb.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Raul O. Marcelo, Editor ■ Corrie S. Narisma, Assistant Editor

DELL™
Latitude C610
Dynamic, Powerful & Wire-capable
Call us today to speak with an expert about the notebook that's right for you.
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC. (ICS)
Tel. 727-3801 Website: www.ics.com.ph

21 banks post increases in bad loans

By Elena R. Torrijos

TWENTY-ONE of the country's 43 commercial banks posted higher levels of soured loans in the fourth quarter last year from the previous quarter with United Coconut Planters Bank registering the biggest rise, the banks' quarterly published statements of condition showed.

UCPB, the country's ninth largest lender, saw its non-performing loan (NPL) ratio jump 9.5 percentage points to 32.25 percent at the close of the fourth quarter from 22.82 percent in the third quarter.

This came on the back of a P6.25-billion increase in bad loans to P20.877 billion from P14.629 billion while the bank's total loan portfolio remained at P64 billion.

UCPB, which has been sequestered by the government, has seen its capital base eroded by losses, largely from provisions for loan-loss provisions, and needs a capital infusion to meet the 10-percent minimum capital adequacy ratio set by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Other banks, however, still had higher NPL ratios than UCPB. As of the fourth quarter, TA Bank of the Philippines, United Overseas Bank, and Philippine National Bank posted NPL ratios of 95 percent, 69.72 percent and 46 percent, respectively.

TA Bank Philippines' NPL ratio was the same as the previous quarter while UOB's was up by three percentage points. On the other hand, PNB, which may soon be rehabilitated, reduced its NPL ratio by seven percentage points as its bad loans fell by P5.57 billion to P45.6 billion.

Coming in at fifth place, Bank of Commerce posted a slight decline in its NPL ratio to 31.72 percent from 32.81 percent.

Philippine Bank of Communications saw its NPL ratio rise to 29.58 percent from 25.26 percent because of a P500-million increase in bad loans and a reduction in its total loan portfolio.

Rounding out the Top 10 were Prudential Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines, Global Bank, and Export and Industry Bank. The first two banks saw slight declines in their NPL ratios to 25.97 percent and 25.14 from 26.55 percent and 26.27 percent, while the last two registered significant increases to 24.21 percent and 23.18 percent from 21.85 percent and 21.96 percent, respectively.

Notably, Union Bank saw its NPL ratio drop by eight percentage points to 10.93 percent as a result of a P9.7-billion increase in its total loan portfolio to P26.6 billion from P16.9 billion.

Traders Royal Bank would have been among the banks with the highest NPL ratios except that it got an exemption from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas requirement to publish its statement of condition for the fourth quarter. In the previous quarter, TRB, which is being absorbed by Bank of Commerce, had the third highest NPL ratio at 65.55 percent.

Sy says he's staying at iBank

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

INTERNATIONAL Exchange Bank president and chief executive officer Ramon Sy yesterday said he was staying put in his current post in one of the country's most profitable banks.

In a terse statement, Sy said: "There have been speculations over the past few days about the possibility of my joining Philippine National Bank. I would like to lay all speculations to rest. I am staying at iBank."

The government's silence on Sy's possible selection had fueled these speculations.

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president Norberto Nazareno had been insisting that the government was still discussing with the potential candidates.

The low-profile banker is a prime candidate for the post considering his nearly half-a-century experience in the industry with previous postings as country manager of Bank of America and CEO of United Coconut Planters Bank.

Tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, who was given the power to choose from a list of candidates to be prepared by the government to oversee PNB, was reportedly amenable to naming Sy as president of the cash-strapped bank.

The government and Tan were supposed to sign a definitive agreement on the rehabilitation program for PNB but this was postponed to Feb. 8, when Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho would have returned from a trip to New York where he would be joining President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Under the MOA to be signed next month, the government would convert P7.8 billion of P23.9 billion in outstanding loans to PNB into equity, P10 billion worth of government advances would be offset with PNB loans to the government, and the remaining P6.1 billion would be restructured over 10 years.

The conversion of P7.8 billion of convertible preferred shares or bonds to be held by PDIC into equity would give the government a 45-percent stake in the bank, up from 16 percent, and dilute Tan's ownership from 68 percent to 45 percent.

Since PDIC would own non-voting shares, the taipan's group would assign part of its voting rights to the national government.

Sy and Philippine Bank of Communications president Isidro Alcantara were the two bankers nominated by the government to be PNB president.

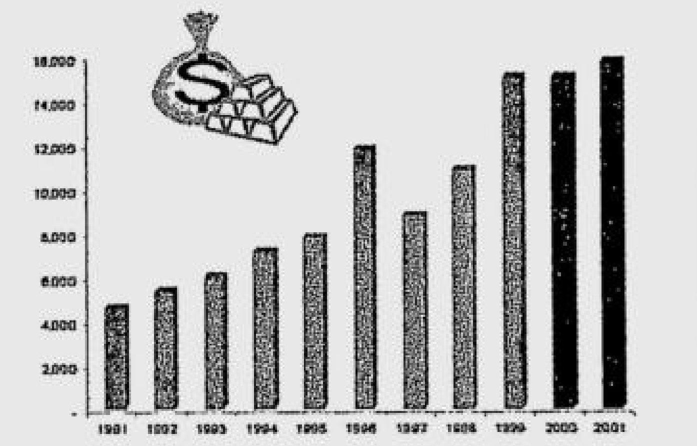
Sy was former chair of United Coconut Planters Bank before he, together with stockbroker Wilson Sy and property developer Jerry Lanuza, set up iBank several years ago.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Gross international reserves

(1991 to 2001, in$ millions)



Source: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

AFTER a drastic drop in gross international reserves in 1997 due to the Asian financial crisis, the Philippines has seen its reserves grow gradually. Last December, there was an increase of close to $1 billion in reserves following the government's fund raising activities like the euro bond issue and the dollar and yen loans. Levels of international reserves can show the health of financial sector since a high level ensures import payments and ability to defend the peso against speculative attacks.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

PLDT seen reviving $250-M bond float

By Doris C. Dumlao

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. plans to revive its $250-million bond offering to help address maturing debts this year.

INQUIRER sources yesterday said PLDT believed that the bond float, which was shelved in September last year because of the jitters caused by the terrorist attacks in the United States, could be revived now that the global environment was improving.

The sources said PLDT noted that it could benefit from the success of the $750-million global bond offering held by the national government two weeks ago. The bond float has put the Philippines back on the investors' map and helped sustain the recovery of the local stock market since mid-November.

For this year, PLDT has some $323 million in maturing obligations.

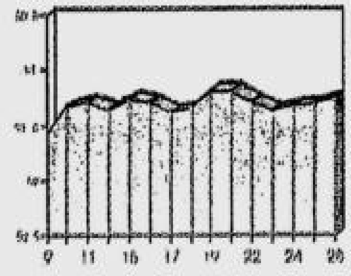
But the sources said the company's priority would still be to generate new bank loans. Since last year, PLDT has been talking with its foreign lenders to provide additional credit line.

Other sources said the foreign banks earlier mandated to underwrite PLDT's bond float--HSBC and CS First Boston--were among the institutions being tapped for new credit lines. KFW of Germany was among the lenders that had given a favorable response.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P51.24 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 28, 2002

¥134.78 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 28, 2002

GOLD: $279.50/280.00
per ounce Hong Kong,
Jan. 28, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.155001	1.000000	51.2920
Japan	Yen	0.008599	0.007445	0.3819
United Kingdom	Pound	1.628321	1.409800	72.3115
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.148267	0.128370	6.5844
Switzerland	Franc	0.677976	0.586992	30.1080
Canada	Dollar	0.717169	0.620925	31.8485
Singapore	Dollar	0.630184	0.545613	27.9856
Australia	Dollar	0.596283	0.516262	26.4801
Bahrain	Dinar	3.063827	2.652661	136.0603
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.308001	0.266667	13.6779
Brunei	Dollar	0.626356	0.542299	27.8156
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000096	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.026220	0.022701	1.1644
UAE	Dirham	0.314543	0.272331	13.9684
Korea	Won	0.000877	0.000759	0.0389
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.865800	44.4086
Brazil	Real	0.481251	0.416667	21.3717
Denmark	Kroner	0.134421	0.116382	5.9695
India	Rupee	0.023963	0.020747	1.0642
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.304027	0.263227	13.5014
Mexico	New Peso	0.126372	0.109413	5.6120
New Zealand	Dollar	0.489200	0.423549	21.7247
Norway	Kroner	0.127360	0.110268	5.6559
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019267	0.016681	0.8556
South Africa	Rand	0.101843	0.088176	4.5227
Sweden	Kroner	0.108310	0.093775	4.8099
Syria	Pound	0.022514	0.019493	0.9998
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.033038	0.028604	1.4672
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001514	001311	0.0672

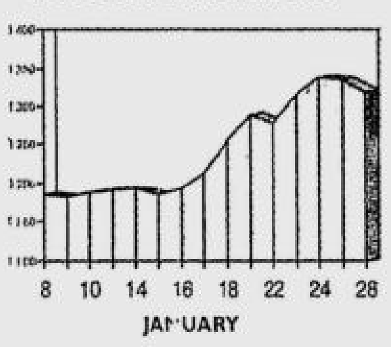
STOCK MARKET

Shares fall 1.3%

SHARE prices fell 1.3 percent yesterday as the market corrected after rallying in the previous week, analysts said.

"We have to give the market some room to absorb certain gains considering that some stocks have gained 10-20 percent (last week.) This is a healthy correction," said Mike Ordinanza of PCIB Securities Inc.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 17.92 points to close at 1,319.23.

"This is a very healthy correction. This will allow more players to participate in the market," said Henry Ong of KGI Securities Inc., adding that sentiment remained bullish as long as interest rates stayed low.

Volume turnover fell to 883.83 million shares but value rose to P2.47 billion from 2.14 billion shares worth P1.19 billion the previous trading day.

PLDT dropped P5 to P505 while Ayala Corp. lost 30 centavos to P6.10.

Bank of the Philippine Islands also lost P3 to P64.50 *AFP*

Tarlac drilling falters

The government's effort to find additional sources of local fuel may have been dampened as an exploration well in Tarlac reportedly failed to flow natural gas, an industry source familiar with the matter told the INQUIRER yesterday.

However, the energy department reported that PNOC-EDC was still awaiting results of tests on Victoria-3.

The Victoria venture is part of efforts to find and develop other natural gas reserves aside from the 2.7 trillion cubic feet in the Malampaya field.

"I don't think they would drill another well (for further confirmation)," the source told the INQUIRER.

He added that previous drillings and tests have failed to confirm the presence of a natural gas reserve big enough for commercial development.

The Tarlac prospect was believed to contain as much 300 billion cubic feet of gas.

An all-Filipino consortium started the onshore drilling last Dec. 1. This included state-run PNOC Energy Development Corp., Vulcan Industrial and Mining, Anglo Philippines, Philodrill, San Jose Oil, Oriental Petroleum and Basic Consolidated.

Fed seen halting rate cuts

WASHINGTON—The Federal Reserve may call this week for a halt to one of the most aggressive rate-cutting sprees in US history.

That was the message financial markets took from Fed Chair Alan Greenspan when he testified last week that the recession-hit US economy was turning the corner toward recovery.

"It looks like the recession is over and we are going to see more prosperous times in the future," said Richard Yamarone, chief economist at Argus Research Corp. in New York.

"I don't see anything in the data that would justify another Fed rate reduction."

Most private economists believe the Fed will opt to keep borrowing costs steady after its two-day meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday. That would mark the first regular policy-setting meeting in more than a year to end without a rate decrease.

Experts say the US central bank can safely move to the sidelines now. Overnight rates are at a 40-year low of 1.75 percent, a level that is seen as providing plenty of kick to the economy.

Each of the eight Fed meetings in 2001 resulted in a rate cut and on three occasions, policymakers eased credit between regular meetings. The 11 reductions have brought overnight rates down 4.75 percentage points since Jan. 3 last year.

When the Fed unveils its rate decision on Wednesday, 22 of 24 top bond dealers polled by Reuters expect it to announce no change in rates.

Many analysts think the Fed will hold to the view that the economic risks are tilted toward weakness. That would signal that policymakers stand ready to resume rate cuts if they need to, although economists are becoming increasingly confident the next Fed move will be a rate rise, perhaps as soon as later this year.

Just a few weeks ago, Wall Street thought the Jan. 29-30 meeting might bring one more small rate reduction.

Predictions of another cut gathered force after a Jan. 11 speech Greenspan gave in San Francisco in which he warned of "significant risks" facing the economy.

FED/B6

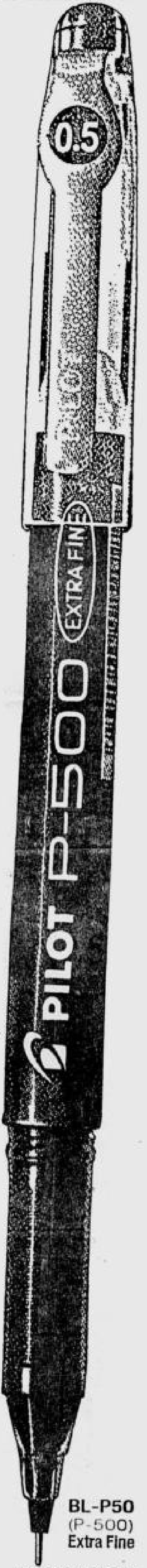
The Power of Technology. We Put It In Your Fingertips.
UCPB. A Passion For Innovation.
Changing The Way We Deliver Banking Services To Fit Your Lifestyle.
Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits Insured up to P100,000. MEGALINK
UCPB
www.ucpb.com
Fund Transfer
1 Time Payment
UCPB
SELF-SERVICE BANKING CENTER
ATM

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SuperBrands Survey 2001
voted by readers
SUPER BRAND Gold 2001
Reader's Digest Philippines

Experience the Ultimate in writing comfort with

PILOT
ROLLER BALLPEN



BL-P50
(P-500)
Extra Fine

UNIQUE STAINLESS STEEL PEN TIP W/3 OR 4 DIMPLE SUPPORT SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES SMOOTH AND UNIFORM INK FLOW.

available colors
BLACK, RED, BLUE

Philippine Exclusive Distributor:
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. PAREDES ST., BINONDO, MANILA
P.O. BOX 1601 Tels.: 243-6912 to 14 Fax: 242-5671
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo, Japan

www.ggaclubshares.com

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of January 29, 2002

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,500,000	1,750,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,500,000	1,750,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	800,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	70,000	90,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	Please Call	330,000
Canlubang	-	600,000
Canyonwoods	Please Call	330,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	130,000
Cebu Country Club	-	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	200,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	230,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	270,000	300,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	270,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	300,000	375,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	13,000,000	14,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,500,000	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	-	650,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	730,000	800,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	30,000
Mt. Malarayat	350,000	Please Call
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	250,000	300,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	500,000
Philippine Columbian	-	65,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	230,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	Please Call	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	150,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,500,000	1,700,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,750,000	Please Call
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	330,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	180,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	365,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	680,000	Please Call
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	170,000
Valley Golf	230,000	240,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	7,500,000

PLAYING RIGHTS

(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	10,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	40,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

For more information, please call:
MAKATI Tel # 840-1761 • Fax # 894-3021 / 750-7894
ALABANG Tel # 850-8223 • Fax # 772-1817

GET OUR LATEST CLUB SHARE QUOTES USING YOUR MOBILE PHONE!
To request for instructions on how to use this service, simply send the TEXT message:

GGA HELP
to 2333 for GLOBE Handyphone subscribers
or 288 for Smart Gold & Buddy subscribers

Note: Globe and Smart Zed rates apply for every successfully sent message. P2.00 for post paid subscribers. P2.50 for pre-paid subscribers

Penthouse, Pacific Star Bldg., Sen Gil Puyat cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
E-mail at: ggashare@mozcom.com
Visit us at our website. http://www.ggaclubshares.com

Valet Parking Available
Call us now at our Hotline: 751-GOLF(4653)

COUNTRY SHARES
As of January 28, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1.45 M/1.5 M	1.55 M*
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	720,000	750,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	250,000	300,000
CANLUBANG	-	750,000
CAPITOL HILLS	120,000	120,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**.	620,000**	350,000/450,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	135,000*	100,000/150,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	90,000/150,000*280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	180,000	230,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	Pls. call or swap
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	260,000	295,000/300,000*
MANILA GOLF CLUB CORP.	-	13 M
MANILA POLO CLUB	2.6M	2,700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A	600,000	680,000
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	120,000/125,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	-	180,000/350,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C**/B*	600,000**	625,000**
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	200,000/400,000**	230,000/425,000*
PUERTO AZUL A		135,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	-	220,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	200,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	550,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	-	110,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	230,000/350,000*/450,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A	-	1,650,000
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	-	300,000/450,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	-	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	370,000/600*	375,000/600,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	650,000	-
VALLE VERDE IND.	170,000	185,000

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Canyon Woods, The Country Club (Free) Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Riviera, Sta Elena, Southwoods (Free), Tagaytay H-lands & Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack, Rockwell & Others

Need Lessor: Eagleridge B

Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest & Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands

Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay & Southwoods

Please Call Tel. Nos. 853-1626/27; Globe 0917-6986275 or 0916-6514374

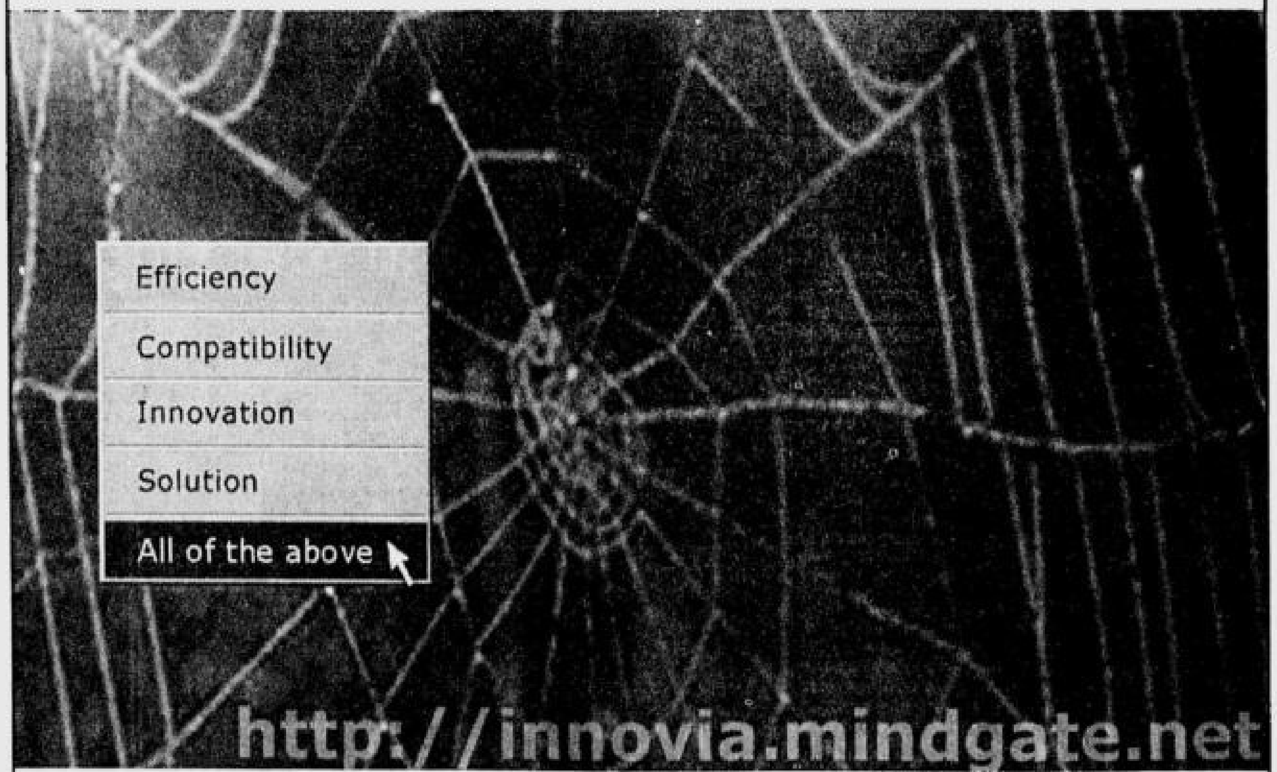
GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF JANUARY 28, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"		1,500,000
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,650,000	1,550,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	700,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	60,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	125,000	115,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	190,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	380,000	350,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	210,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	375,000	340,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	230,000	210,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	280,000	250,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	400,000	
19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	15,000,000	12,000,000
20. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,600,000
21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	600,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000	
23. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	140,000	
24. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
25. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	330,000
26. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
27. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	300,000	250,000
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	370,000	
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	190,000
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	350,000	230,000
32. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,700,000	1,500,000
33. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	300,000	
34. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB		750,000
35. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	750,000	650,000
36. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	180,000	170,000
37. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	240,000	
38. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		6,500,000

ASSIGNMENT OF PLAYING RIGHTS PLS. CALL

JUST S. VIRAY
TRADING MANAGER
PAUL CORTEZ
PRESIDENT
LALA SALAO / LYDIA HASEGAWA / FINAS VIRAY
TEL. NOS. 8175655 / 8121066 / 8193560
7517982 CP#0917-8114892

Have you been caught yet?



We believe that open communication and genuine collaboration is the key to find the most effective solution for your company --- a solution that connects your ideas and our expertise in web technology.

INNOVIA
Driven by Ideas. Powered by Technology.

• WEB Development • WEB Applications • WEB Hosting
• Intranet Systems • E-commerce

A division of Mindgate Systems, Inc.
• Contact us: 6383391 / 6373456 • Fax: 9100529
• Email us: webinquiry@mindgate.net
• Visit us: http://innovia.mindgate.net

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, January 28, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	12,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands'	67	67	64.5	64.5	1,379,900
China Banking Corp.	560	560	560	560	60
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	47,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29.5	29.5	28	29	609,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	201	201	197	198	58,200
Philippine National Bank	70	70	64	66	13,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	4,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.5	156,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1285	1295	1285	1295	4,200
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1010	1020	1010	1020	1,800
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	31	31.5	332,000
Diversified Fin. Network	4	4	4	4	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.46	0.46	4,600,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	675	685	675	675	13,270
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.034	0.036	0.034	0.036	24,600,000
Piltel	0.4	0.4	0.36	0.36	2,330,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	510	510	490	505	375,370
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.023	0.024	209,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	27	27	26	26.5	152,600
Manila Electric Co. B	39.5	39.5	38	38.5	3,063,600
Petron Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.78	1.8	11,332,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.94	0.92	0.94	160,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.8	2,709,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	3,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	10,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	19,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	6,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	125,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	1,457,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	25	25	329,600
RFM Corp.	2.9	2.95	2.8	2.9	2,029,000
San Miguel Corp. A	45	45.5	45	45	240,600
San Miguel Corp. B	59	59	58	59	361,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.45	0.4	0.45	140,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.3	6	6.1	28,236,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.78	1.78	1.74	1.74	1,194,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.79	0.8	760,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.008	89,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.77	0.81	0.72	0.81	72,520,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.12	0.12	340,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.25	0.3	840,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	800,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.32	5,160,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.105	0.11	4,840,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	458,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	31	31	29	29.5	838,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.175	0.18	0.17	0.18	7,470,000
Ionics Inc.	7.9	8	7.9	8	448,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings	1	1	1	1	200,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.9	0.91	0.86	0.88	6,590,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.35	0.36	8,800,000
Music Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.31	0.33	19,420,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.2	1,140,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	640,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	310,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.51	0.51	210,000
Pryce Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,200,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	439,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	110,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	5,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	32	32.5	31.5	32	1,230,200
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.9	1.9	1.84	1.84	46,000
Globe Tel. A-Warrants	450	480	450	480	2,490
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	660	660	660	660	4,350
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	23,000,000
RFM Corp.-Pref.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	77,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	6.1	5.8	6.1	31,967,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.28	5,720,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.48	0.49	6,100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.31	0.33	13,680,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.36	2.36	2.26	2.26	25,330,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.13	300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	470,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	5,491,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	2,000,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0042	0.0038	0.0042	15,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	20,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.037	0.037	0.034	0.036	33,400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	2,740,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	3,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	19,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	3,600,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.225	0.25	730,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	5,200,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	13,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	30,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	42,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	4,577,050	1,403,644,385.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	617,304,780	765,326,190.00
PRO	91,068,000	296,729,080.00
Mining	77,490,000	2,576,780.00
OIL	92,220,000	639,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	882,659,830	2,468,915,435.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	532.40	DOWN 17.11
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,799.50	DOWN 30.68
PRO	594.60	UP 18.51
Mining	1,158.51	DOWN 16.49
OIL	2.04	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	720.23	DOWN 5.02
Composite	1,319.23	DOWN 17.92

NO. OF ADVANCES: 18; NO. OF DECLINES: 43; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 99; NO. OF TRADES: 4,859

DISCLOSURES

WISE Holdings Inc. said it would start holding office at the 12/F of L.V. Locsin Bldg. in Makati City on Feb. 1.

* * *

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. confirmed it was planning to hold a soft launch of its mobile service in March while commercial operations would start in the second quarter.

* * *

STENIEL Manufacturing Corp. announced the resignation of Francis Lao as director of the company. Genesis Golingan was elected to replace him.

* * *

INTERPORT Resources Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Feb. 28, 10 a.m. at the EastRidge Golf Club in Binangonan, Rizal. Only stockholders of record as of Jan. 28 are entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

* * *

SOUTHEAST Asia Cement Holdings Inc. announced the resignation of Duncan Gage as director of the company. Bryan Cockrell was elected to replace him. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CAB asks S. Korea for one more flight

By Abigail L. Ho

THE CIVIL Aeronautics Board decided in a meeting yesterday to ask the Korean government for an additional frequency entitlement so that Philippine Airlines could have the two frequencies it has been asking for while Cebu Pacific could hold on to the three frequencies it got from the CAB on Dec. 19 last year.

CAB vice chair Adelberto Yap told reporters yesterday that CAB had already informed Korea of its request and that the latter was expected to issue its response today. He said the CAB would base its final decision on that Korea's response.

Yap said CAB would call PAL and Cebu Pacific again for another meeting today. "Korea will say today if it will give the Philippines another frequency. We want both sides to be happy."

However, Yap did not say what the country would be giving Korea in exchange for the additional frequency.

Before the Board sat down to deliberate on the matter, Representatives of the two flag carriers were given the chance to present their arguments.

PAL vice president for legal affairs Roberto Lim argued that the board never arrived at a decision granting the Gokongwei-owned carrier the three Seoul frequencies on Dec. 19.

"There were discussions and there was a hearing, but there was no decision. We only received the CAB decision on Jan. 9. We filed a motion for reconsideration that very same day," he said.

He denied having been given a copy of the CAB's resolution granting Cebu Pacific the three frequency entitlements.

On Dec. 27, the CAB expressed in writing its Dec. 19 decision through an official certification that included the granting of the three frequencies to Cebu Pacific as well as the carrier's flight schedules.

Lim stressed that since PAL never got a copy of that certification and was only informed of the CAB's decision on Jan. 9, it should still have 15 days from that date to oppose.

Cebu Pacific director for legal affairs Racquel Ruiz-Dimalanta, however, countered that both PAL and Cebu Pacific were present on Dec. 19 when the CAB made its decision.

1 unit
HONDA CIVIC
Brand New
Won in Raffle, Lucky Car.
1.5 L Manual, Color Ice Teal Blue
₱668,000 Only
₱30,000 Discount
For details: call us at 3110062

G & W clubshares
SEC License Broker No.: A-17597
As of January 29, 2002

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "B"	-	1,500,000
Alta Vista	-	250,000
Baguio Country Club	740,000	600,000
Camp John Hay	300,000	250,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC	130,000	-
Calatagan Golf	90,000	-
Canyon Woods	230,000	190,000
Canlubang	650,000	-
Celebrity Sports	230,000	170,000
Eagleridge "A"	330,000	330,000
Eastridge	200,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	90,000
Fairways & Bluewaters	Pls. Call	-
Fontana "D/C"	90,000/140,000	Pls. Call
Forest Hills "A"	230,000	200,000
Manila Polo	-	2,500,000
Manila Golf	-	-
Makati Sports Club	350,000	250,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	700,000	620,000
Mimosa Golf	165,000	-
Mt. Malarayat	-	350,000
Orchard	250,000	220,000
Orchard "B"	-	250,000
Phil. Columbian	70,000	60,000
Punta Fuego	650,000	500,000
Puerto Azul	170,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	240,000	200,000
Riviera Golf	210,000	190,000
Rockwell	400,000	-
Royale Tagaytay A/C	100,000/140,000	Pls. Call
Sherwoods	120,000	-
Subic Bay Yatch Club "Corp"	400,000	Pls. Call
Subic Golf	160,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	-	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	-	750,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	700,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	175,000	150,000

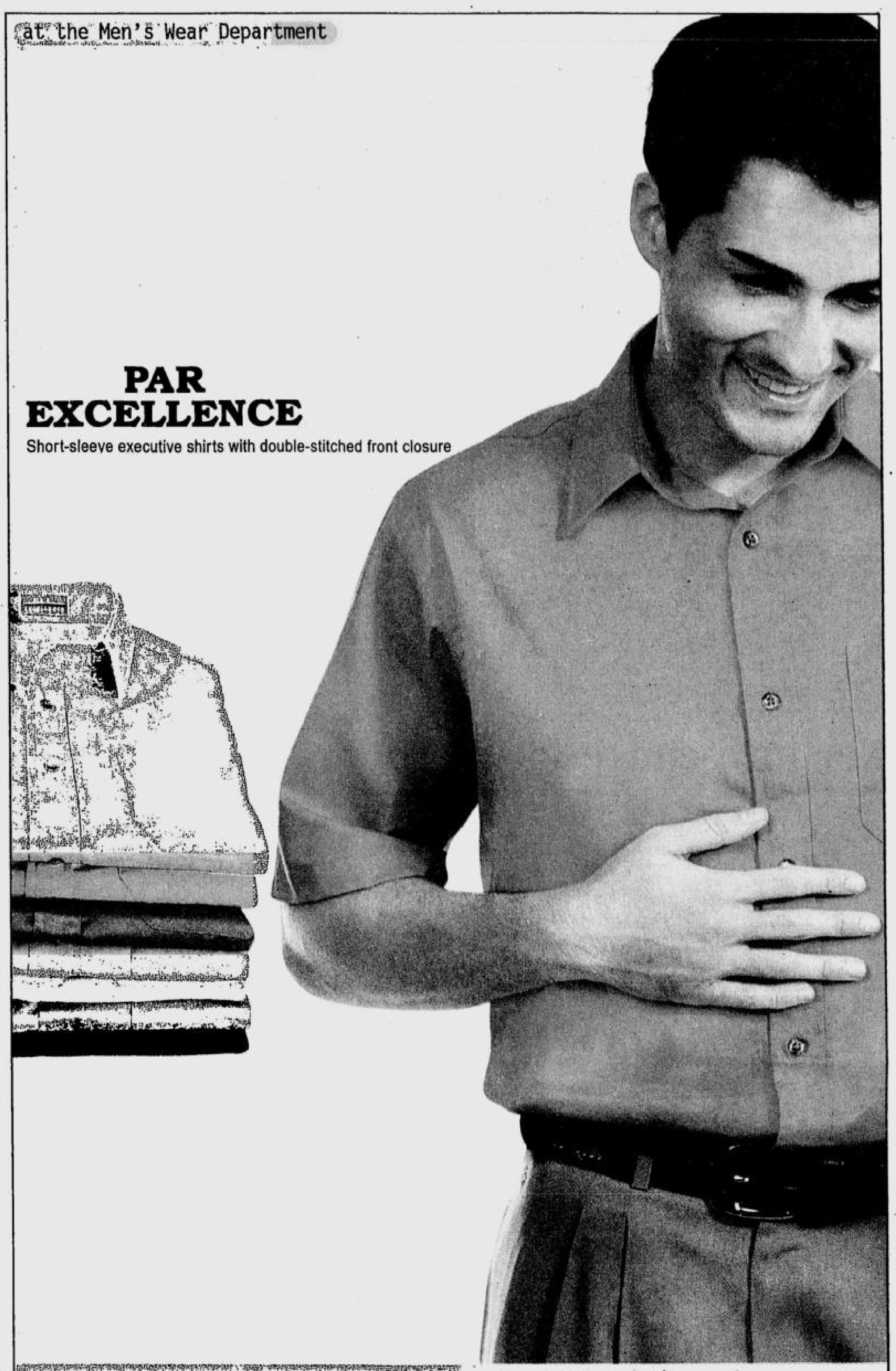
FREE PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE
Looking For Manila Golf Assignor At P200,000
TL 6836309/Tel. No. 6359918/6359830/(0919)7041848
Mon. - Fri., 9:00 am - 6:00 pm Sat., 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Unit 1402 Medical Plaza Ortigas, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

LECSTON
Instant Water Heater
The only one with 5-way luxurious Shower Set
RINGO
MISTY
MISTY SPLASH
PULSATION JET
MAXI SPRAY

•Built-in ELCB
•Ideal for low water pressure (min2 psi)
•Available in single pt. and multi pt.
•Exclusive 1 yr. Warranty on parts and service
(Free Installation within Metro Manila)
Please call: 733-8341 to 48

CLEAN PURE WATER?
EQUIPMENT & CONTAINERS
CALL US & WE'LL
DELIVER

Call us: SHAHUM INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Tels.: 533-0511 • 533-3241 • 535-2254 • Fax: 533-3241
QUEZON CITY: Tels.: 373-0476 • 374-6166



at the Men's Wear Department
PAR EXCELLENCE
Short-sleeve executive shirts with double-stitched front closure
We've got it all for you!
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
MAKATI • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • CEBU

TALK TO THOUSANDS EVERYDAY!
Advertising in Libre reaches thousands of commuters! Plus, thanks to its high pass-on readership, you reach thousands of non-commuters as well. Available at MRT and LRT stations, it's the free newspaper that provides relevant and useful information. Articles are short and easy to digest --- perfect for those on the go!
With Libre, advertisers are free to explore creative, non-traditional layouts and promotions! Call 897-88-08 to reserve a spot and make the market listen
The Best Things in Life Are Libre

RENOVATIONS OF MEMBER HOTELS

Shangri-La group to invest $130M

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE HONG-KONG-based Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts would invest $130 million in the renovations of its member hotels over the next two years, including the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

This is part of the Shangri-La group's strategy to become the leading luxury hotel company in Asia, and soon in key cities around the world.

Renovations

Aside from the Makati Shangri-La, renovations are also ongoing at the Shangri-La hotels in Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, and will soon begin at the China World Hotel, Beijing and the Kowloon Shangri-La in Hong Kong.

The Makati Shangri-La renovation would cover the rooms, the lobby, lobby lounge, café restaurant and Horizon Club Lounge.

Once completed, the Horizon Club Lounge will feature a new "interactive" bar, where an oval-shaped bar will be set in the middle of the lounge where guests will be able to serve themselves and make their own drinks.

Judy Record, Shangri-La group director for public relations, told the INQUIRER during her recent visit that the renovation program would give a brand-new look to the Shangri-La group which has traditionally been seen as typically Asian.

The new look would be more contemporary and would extend beyond guest rooms to include public areas to staff uniforms and hotel signages.

The new look would also include the development of innovative restaurants and lounges, with 11 new concepts debuting this year and others under development.

Expansion

Record told the INQUIRER that the renovations would proceed along with the Shangri-La group's expansion program.

She said five new Shangri-La hotels would be opened over the next four years. The first to open would be the Shangri-La hotel in Dubai and Zhengzhou in March 2003, followed by the Zhongshan hotel in July 2003, Fuzhou in late 2003 and the Al Jissah Resort in Oman by July 2005.

"China remains an important country for us because it has a huge domestic market, but the property is still very much into Asia with expansions into Korea, Tokyo, Sydney or Melbourne," Record says.

Shangri-La also plans to put up hotels in key gateways such as London, Paris, Berlin, New York and Los Angeles.

The Shangri-La group is the largest Asian luxury hotel group in the region, with nearly 20,000 rooms and 38 properties located in the Chinese mainland, Fiji, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

NEW room at Makati Shangri-La

New high-end residential project launched

THE GROUND-BREAKING ceremony for Celebrity Place, a new high-end residential project, was held recently in Quezon City. The project site is adjacent to the Celebrity Sports Plaza, which has emerged as one of the most modern in-city sports clubs. The amenities of the club include a 50-meter swimming pool, bowling, US standard tennis and badminton courts and reinvigorating facilities such as spa and jacuzzi.

The Celebrity Place is an integrated and well-planned residential development that will rise on a two-hectare property.

New lifestyle

A unique concept, the Celebrity Place brings with it an entirely new lifestyle for the urban dwellers. The proud owner of each residential unit will have the privilege of enjoying the facilities of the Celebrity Sports Plaza.

According to Marisol Lim-Ybañez, vice president for business development, "One Asia Development Corp. is bringing into the market a truly unique product of not just a new home but a new lifestyle."

Basically Mediterranean

The ambiance of the townhouse community is basically Mediterranean in a luxuriously landscaped setting. Each townhouse unit will have three levels with a high cathedral ceiling for the *sala* (living) and dining areas, a two-car garage and a relaxing garden on the ground floor.

The Celebrity Place is a joint project of One Asia Development Corp. and the Riviera Land Corp., owners of the Celebrity Sports Plaza. One Asia is the newest firm of the Extraordinary Group of Companies that has been in real estate development for more than 18 years.

Heritage Park sets new standard for memorial parks

JUST when Filipinos have grown familiar with the handful of prominent memorial parks and companies in the country, along comes another development that is destined to be on a class of its own, elevating the standards of what a haven for our departed loved ones should be: the Heritage Park.

The Heritage Park is master-planned as a high-value, multiuse memorial park complex that's replete with the most ideal environmental flourishes, esthetic landmarks and modern interment services and facilities. It also dedicates itself to the preservation and propagation of natural legacies and cultural wealth of the country.

Various zones

Set on a sprawling 76-hectare parcel of land inside Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, the Heritage Park will be divided into various zones depicting the mixed cultural background of the Filipino nation. Vertical development will also include places of worship and vigil areas, landmarks and other park amenities for public patronage and benefit.

Sprawling landscaped terrains, wide roads, promenades, gardens and a lagoon surrounding an island—all elements help achieve the balance between remembrance of the dear departed and affirmation of life for the living. There are spacious lawns and gardens for traditional burials and customs, private estates and mausoleum areas.

Commitment to serve

The Heritage Park provides best services and care for those in need, and employs counselors to privately assist families with their final arrangements, from date and location of service, selection of memorialization products and interment services.

What makes the Heritage Park even more distinctive is that it is established with a Perpetual Care Fund, held in trust for the sole purpose of perpetual maintenance, upkeep and continued enhancement of the park to ensure its long-term maintenance and care, thereby freeing lot owners from the financial burden and worry of maintenance of their interment lots.

The Heritage Park is operated and managed by Rosehills Memorial Management Inc., a local affiliate of a leading US-based cemetery and mortuary company.

WORLDBEX 2002

The 7th Philippine World Building and Construction Exposition
13-17 March 2002 World Trade Center Metro Manila
In conjunction with the 4th WORLDBEX Seminars 2002

Linking the World in one global construction network

The Ultimate building and construction exposition linking you to over 1,000 building and construction products and services from more than 20 countries across the globe, expecting over 500 exhibitors and 40,000 attendees.

WORLDBEX 2002 --
your GLOBAL CONSTRUCTION NETWORK.
www.worldbex.com

Organized by:
WORLDBEX SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

In cooperation with:
FILIPINO PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTS
PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS
eccp
U.S. COMMERCIAL SERVICE

reply form

YES! I want to be a WORLDBEX 2002 exhibitor!

MAIL or FAX to: Worldbex Services International
488 Boni Ave. cor. San Joaquin St., 1550 Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. (632) 531-6350, (632) 531-6374, (632) 534-3611 Fax. (632) 533-2026
E-Mail: info@worldbex.com / Website: www.worldbex.com

number of booths	address	
contact person	country	
designation	telephone	fax
company	e-mail	website

SPEAKERS

MR. VICENTE LAZA (Philippines)
"Project Financing Solutions: The LGU Bond"
MR. ANDREW MOORE (Singapore)
"How an International Practice Offers a Truly Global Perspective on Hospitality Design ?"
MR. CHEE KOK WENG (Singapore)
"Restoration"
MR. GRAHAM DAINES (Singapore)
"Tall Buildings in Steel-Are They Still Safe ?"
MR. KEITH MAY (New Zealand)
"Reflective Foils & It's Function in Tropical Areas"
MR. KEN YEANG (Malaysia)
"Ecological Design of Large Building and Sites"

The 4th WORLDBEX Seminars 2002
14-15 March 2002
WTCM Skyline Restaurant

Fax or Mail to:
Worldbex Services International
488 Boni Ave., Cor. San Joaquin St.,
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel.: (632) 5316374 / 5316350
Fax: (632) 5332026
E-mail: seminars@worldbex.ph

REGISTRATION FORM:
Name:
Profession: PRC#:
Company:
Designation:
Office Address:
Tel Nos.: Fax No.: Cellphone No.:
Residence Address:
Residence Tel. No.:

GROUNDBREAKING HIGHLIGHT

The lowering of a time capsule highlighted the recently held groundbreaking ceremonies of the 1.2-hectare Cebu plant of Enomoto Philippine Manufacturing Inc. at the Cebu Light Industrial Park in Mactan, Cebu. The new plant will manufacture high precision metal stamping molds, the first of its kind in the country, and will serve markets in Singapore, Taiwan and the Philippines. The company expects the new facility to be operational by the third quarter of 2002. From left are Federico Mercado, Lapu-Lapu city administrator; Isabelito Darnayla, Basak barangay captain; Masuo Sato, Enomoto president; Yasuo Enomoto, chair of Enomoto; and Masaki Yamagawa, project manager of Correa Zenitaka.

Construction firm gears for ISO accreditation

L&M Maxco Co. Inc., one of the premier triple A construction companies in the country, has unveiled its quality manual for compliance with the requirements set forth in securing an ISO accreditation.

According to architect Pete Dublon, vice president for operations and marketing, L&M Maxco has initiated a series of training for its technical and administrative team to ensure the effective implementation of standards and procedures to make the company at par with international construction outfits.

The company is currently enhancing its manual for submission and processing for ISO certification. Likewise, L&M Maxco has been observing strict adherence to safety measures and guidelines which have been implemented in its notable projects such as the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao, KSA Enterprise Building on Ayala Avenue, Makati; Torre Lorenzo on Taft Avenue; and Landco-Pacific PDCP Building in Davao, said Cherry Co, business development manager.

Early approval of 2 key economic reform bill urged

THE SUBDIVISION and Housing Developers Association has called for the immediate enactment of two key economic reform bills that could clear financial obstacles for banks to resume lending to housing by taking out their nonperforming loans from their balance sheets, at the same time generate fresh funds for housing finance through securitization of these assets.

Noel S. Gonzales, SHDA national president, also hailed Speaker Jose C. de Venecia Jr. for pushing for the early passage of these legislative measures on securitization; and the creation of an asset management company to handle the nonperforming loans of the banking sector, which would benefit not only the housing industry but also the whole economy in general.

Frameworks

The securitization bill seeks to provide the legal and regulatory frameworks to enable banks to convert their loans and other financial assets to a special purpose vehicle for the issuance of asset-backed securities to be sold to investors, Gonzales cited.

Despite the high liquidity being experienced by banks and in spite of the regime of low interest and inflation rates, banks are hesitant to lend to housing and other businesses because of their equally high level of nonperforming loans, which include exposures to housing development and real estate mortgage financing, he said.

"With the enactment of these two bills, banks and financial institutions could get themselves out of the "liquidity trap" and resume their lending operations, when their nonperforming loans are removed from their balance sheets and when they start to generate funds for loans from the securitization of these assets," according to Gonzales.

Assurance

He pointed out that time and again, the assurance of sustainable funds for housing development and homebuyers' loans has hounded the industry; and the enactment of these two critical bills would address the perennial lack of housing funds.

These would also pave the way for the operationalization of a secondary market for home mortgages, which would channel funds from the capital market into housing finance, he said.

Gonzales added the SHDA has continued to support the government goals of assuring sustainable funds for housing to promote decent and affordable homeownership.

Doctor finds home cure for stressful city living

THE DEL Rosario family in their Georgetown home

FAR from the maddening crowd of urban living is a haven where families like that of Dr. Vangie del Rosario's hie off on weekends for rest and recreation. Nestled right in the heart of scenic Tagaytay is the exclusive Georgetown Lakeview Vacation Estate where the Del Rosarios own a vacation house.

"We were really looking for a weekend getaway that is close to Manila," says the lady doctor who, together with her husband Ben, owns and runs St. Jude Hospital in Manila and Cavite.

Great scenery

After years of living abroad, the couple bought a lot in Georgetown in 1999 where they built their two-story, three-bedroom Cedarbrook American country- style house (one of the 10 model homes being offered by Georgetown). "Georgetown's location is very convenient and the scenery is great. Plus this is my father's hometown," Vangie says.

Ben, a self-proclaimed *probinsyano* (townsperson) at heart; says he has always longed for the solitude and beauty of the countryside. "This is where I escape," he shares. "The pace of life is slower. It's a very healthful place to be. I think it will add more years to your life."

Ben loves sitting in the veranda, enjoying the crisp mountain breeze and the breathtaking, unobstructed view of the Taal Lake that all homes in Georgetown can boast of. He enjoys the peace and quiet, attributable largely to the ample distance between residences.

Creativity

The house's interior is a testimony to the couple's creativity. It is evident in the use of accents. Their concept is interesting, the accents, eclectic.

"We consulted some interior decorators but we personally shopped for the materials," Vangie says. "We had a great time decorating our house."

The bedrooms reflect the diverse personalities of the family members. Felice, the couple's 18-year-old daughter, has a Japanese-inspired bedroom. Their other daughter's bedroom, on the other hand, evokes country-style charm.

The master bedroom—from where one can see the spectacular view of the lake and the verdant rolling hills—also boasts of comfy elegance.

"We're really planning on staying in Georgetown longer," says Ben, who explains the family goes there only on weekends. "We're so lucky we have this place to come home to when city life becomes too tedious for us."

The public is invited to visit Georgetown Lakeview Vacation Estate and its newly opened clubhouse in Metro Tagaytay. For inquiries call 810-0374 or 813-6860 or visit www.georgetown.com.ph or e-mail FGVI@sfi.com.ph.

2-hectare Leisure Park at Laguna BelAir 3

HOUSING developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. is creating a two-hectare leisure park as one of the main attractions in an impressive array of fun amenities in the expansion phase of Laguna BelAir, its landmark township development in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The pristine park at Laguna BelAir 3 features a man-made lagoon with a boat quay, an aviary, a multipurpose pavilion, an elevated viewing deck, a rock cascade, flower and butterfly garden, jogging trail, a mini-putting green, children's playground, picnic grounds and a learning resource center.

Vacation haven

Residents need not go to the lakeshores of Laguna de Bay or the surrounding resorts for a weekend getaway as Laguna BelAir 3 is a vacation haven in itself that offers residents a wide variety of leisure treats all year round.

A crowd-pleaser is the man-made lagoon fronting an imposing pavilion that will treat residents to a unique experience of boating, fishing and other water activities. The lagoon complex, once completed, will have a boat quay, a rock cascade and a water feature, making it one of the first of its kind in local township development.

A visit to the aviary and the flower and butterfly garden, patterned after the botanical gardens of Mt. Makiling and UP Los Baños, will be both a learning and a relaxing experience as these feature the invigorating sights and sounds of Laguna's famed species.

In addition to a clubhouse, Empire East will build a multipurpose pavilion that will host important family gatherings or even business meetings while the park's sprawling picnic lawns and playgrounds will be perfect for weekend get-togethers.

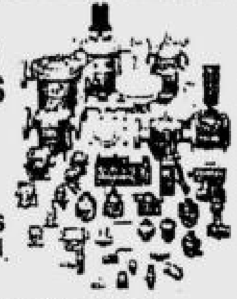
Attractions

Among the attractions at Laguna BelAir 3 is a learning resource center, which will complement Laguna BelAir School by providing an array of livelihood courses to interested families, hobbyists, retirees and even the domestic helpers.

Convenient spots for residents who want to enjoy the scenic environment are the elevated viewing deck, porte-cochere and covered walkways. In addition, there's a jogging trail and a mini-putting green for the sports-minded.

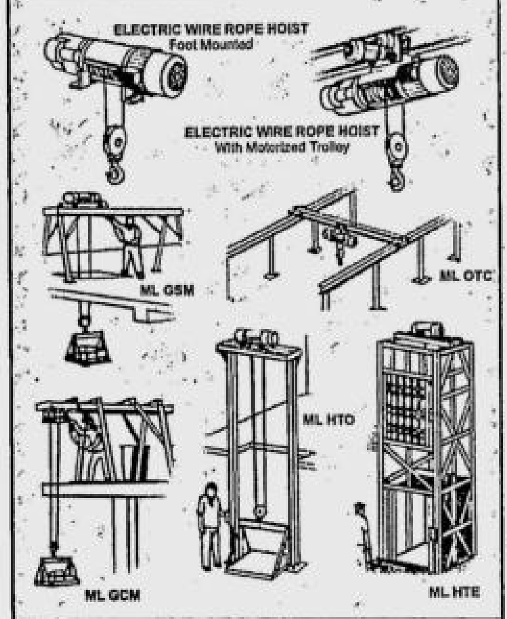
GROUNDBREAKING RITE

Officers of the BF CITI Land Corp. recently held the groundbreaking ceremony for Aventine Place, a well-conceived cluster community within BF Homes Parañaque. During the ceremony, president Aurora Sicam is flanked by executive vice president Rebecca RC Buenaventura, left, and VP for marketing Tony Cabuñag. Looking at left is VP Cesar Macasil.



TLV® PRODUCTS
WITH FLUID CONTROL ENGINEERING
- ENERGY CONSERVERS
- PRODUCTION IMPROVERS

ARMSTRONG CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY
358 G. ARANETA AVE., SANTOL, QUEZON CITY
TELS. 7135211 TO 13 • 7135191 FAX 7135182



OBERLY
MATERIALS HOISTS
ELECTRIC WIRE ROPE HOIST Foot Mounted
ELECTRIC WIRE ROPE HOIST With Motorized Trolley
ML GSM
ML OTC
ML HTO
ML GCM
ML HTE
17 LABO ST., QUEZON CITY
TELS.: 740-1594 to 95 / 740-1597 to 98
Fax: 740-1603 E-mail: oberly@mydestiny.net

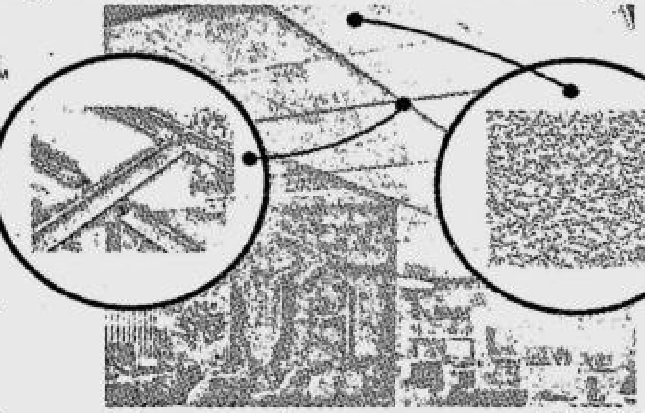
Your Total Solution to any Waterproofing Problem

FLEXSEAL™
Elastomeric Paint
Total waterproofing protection for walls, floors & other general waterproofing requirements

SUPERSEAL
Cementitious Waterproofing Coating
Heavy-duty cement-based waterproofing protection for walls, floors, basements, water tanks and other water-holding structures

TILESTIK
Waterproof Tile Adhesive & Grout
Waterproof, high strength cement-based tile adhesive & grout for interior/exterior wall and floor, thick and thin bed application, not affected by continual exposure to water

'from the most trusted name in waterproofing:
CAMPBRIDGE Waterproofing Systems, Inc
1370 JOSE ABAD SANTOS AVE., METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES
Tel. Nos. 252-05-31 up to 32; 252-05-49 up to 51; 252-05-59; Fax No.: 252-05-50
Website: www.campbridge.com
Distributor for Northern Luzon:
DAGUPAN TONY'S LUMBER INC. (PROBUILD)
AB Fernandez Ave Dagupan Tel No : (075) 523-4113 to 14/522-0477
Distributor for Visayas and Mindanao:
CEBU OVERSEA HARDWARE CO., INC.
#82 Plaridel St., Cebu City Tel No : (032) 254-1511 Fax No : (032) 52426
AVAILABLE THROUGH DEALERS NATIONWIDE



"ARE YOU WILLING TO SPEND MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS OF PESOS JUST TO GIVE YOUR OFFICE AND BUILDINGS THAT UNIQUE, IMPRESSIVE LOOK?"
IF NOT, THEN YOU SHOULD READ THIS AD!
Introducing... Astino™ and CITY UNI
Suspension Ceiling Tee — Cellulose Fibre Cement Ceiling Boards
Two new elegant, easy, durable and economical ways of redefining rooms, offices and buildings!

Reasons why you should choose Astino™:
1. It's fire safe and corrosion free!
2. It's suitable for all types of buildings.
3. It's economical because the tees are interchangeable.
4. It's fast and easy to install.

Reasons why you should choose CITY UNI:
1. It's aesthetically elegant.
2. It provides lasting quality and durability.
3. It blends beautifully with any indoor setting.
4. It can be painted.
5. It's fire retardant.

So, why spend more when you can get MORE for less?
Try Astino™ and CITY UNI and get your money's worth!

Come and visit us:
CBS, INC.

Sterling Place Showroom
2302 Pasong Tamo Ext.,
Makati City 1231, Philippines
Tel. No.: 813-7828 loc. 111 -112

Sterling House Showroom
33B Shaw Blvd. San Antonio Vill.
Pasig City
Tel. No.: 634-2452 Fax: 6342450

FINALLY! The Breakthrough Solution To Protect Traffic-Heavy Floors!
Concrete Slab
ASHFORD FORMULA ®U.S.A.
The Final Treatment For Concrete Floors
ASHFORD FORMULA ® U.S.A. penetrates, reacts to moisture and chemicals in concrete, reduces "air spaces" to a size that bars water molecules, yet allows concrete to breathe.

✓Densifies, Solidifies, Hardens
✓Bonds, Seals, Protects for Life!
✓Water-Proofs, Dust-Proofs
✓Maintenance Care-Free!

- Carries tons & tons of multi-level product-full racks
- Bears heavy traffic of shopping carts, forklifts, trucks
- The more traffic abrasion, the shinier it gets!
- Water-proof, prevents foul odors & Wet Market stench
- Can take frequent or severe Freeze-Thaw cycles
- Oil & grime-proof, glides away with mop & water
- Dust-proof, for the strictest Clean Room standards
- Significantly more Cost-Efficient: won't crack like Ceramic tiles, peel like Vinyl, nor tear like Epoxy.
- Eliminates expensive maintenance, replacement, and downtime costs permanently! Boosts profitability!
- A single-application protects concrete floors for life!
- Backed by a 20-year written warranty!

For more technical details, visit our website at:
http://www.ashfordformula.com

Check out S&R PRICE stores at Fort Bonifacio & Ortigas Ave. Pasig, soon to open at Congressional Ave. near EDSA, Q.C. for U.S.-quality shopping pleasure. World-wide, all S&R / Costco concrete floors are treated with ASHFORD FORMULA ®U.S.A. - ensures operating efficiency and Outstanding Customer Satisfaction!

Specify ASHFORD FORMULA® not "Concrete Hardener"

CALL! 810-2991 to 5
Exclusive Philippine Distributor & Applicator;
TRADETEK Resources Inc.
606 PIFCO Bldg., 2300 Pasong Tamo Ext. Makati City
Fax 892-1867 E-mail: tradetek@info.com.ph

Manufacturing output down 10.4% in November

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S manufacturing volume fell by 10.4 percent in November from the year-ago level as most export-oriented firms scaled down their production in view of the continued global economic slowdown.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the contraction was slightly slower compared with the 11.5 percent year-on-year decline in October, but analysts said it was too soon to conclude whether the weakness in the manufacturing output had finally bottomed out. Instead, they said the sector was expected to remain sluggish until after the first quarter of this year.

The sector whose decline had weighed down most on the manufacturing volume index during the month was petroleum, which fell by 17.1 percent from a year ago.

DBS Vickers Ballas Securities analyst Jomar Lacson said the decline in petroleum production was due to price concerns saying that the prices of petroleum products in November were still high.

With the drop in the prices of petroleum products and other basic goods in recent months, however, Lacson said the petroleum manufacturing sector was expected to register a turnaround in the first quarter of the year.

Other sectors that recorded a double-digit contraction in annual volume of production in November were: basic metals (32.4 percent); chemical products (14.3 percent); non-metallic mineral products (19.4 percent); beverage (12.3 percent); paper and paper products (32.9 percent); and electrical machinery (34.7 percent).

The biggest gainer during the period was food manufacturing which registered a 27-percent increase in output. The footwear and wearing apparel sector posted a 68.1-percent improvement.

The other gainers were: transport equipment (27.4 percent); fabricated metals (24.1 percent); wood and wood products (32.9 percent); machinery excluding electrical (20.1 percent); publishing and printing (18 percent); and rubber products (19 percent).

Abacus Securities economist Emilio Neri Jr. said the double-digit contraction in manufacturing output was not expected to affect the government's 3.3-percent gross domestic product growth target for 2001 as the economy was seen to rely more on agriculture and services.

Neri also said there could still be some slight contraction in the manufacturing volume in the first quarter.

In a related development, the NSO survey showed that the proportion of responding establishments that operated at a capacity of 90 percent to 100 percent in November was 21.2 percent. About 38.3 percent of the respondents operated at 70-percent to 89-percent capacity while those below that ran at 70-percent capacity accounted for 40.5 percent.

The average capacity utilization rate for November last year for the entire manufacturing sector was estimated at 76.6 percent. The sectors that posted more than 80-percent capacity utilization rate during the period were tobacco, wood and wood products, rubber products and petroleum products.

BCDA urged to honor John Hay deal

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CAMP John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDC) wants the Bases Conversion Development Authority to honor their agreement that provides for the restructuring of the company's P850 million in unpaid dues during the first two years of its lease contract to develop the former US military camp in Baguio City.

CJHDC chair Robert John Sobrepeña said the BCDA has signed a memorandum of agreement in July 2000 allowing CJHDC to restructure its unpaid P425 million in annual dues for 1999 and 2000.

Based on its 2001 MOA, CJHDC will make P150 million in advance payments for its P425 million rental in 1999 with the remaining P200 million to be paid in five yearly installments starting 2003 and P75 million in the form of club shares and condominium units. For its 2000 dues, CJHDC agreed to pay P150 in cash and the balance to be paid in five annual payments starting in 2004.

Sobrepeña said the BCDA had already accepted P50 million in advance payment with the signing of the MOA but the agreement was not implemented because the agency insisted on getting the Commission on Audit's approval. The Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, however, has ruled that the COA approval was no longer necessary.

Sobrepeña said it was crucial that the MOA be implemented in order to start the restructuring of its 2001 and 2002 lease payments. CJHDC has to pay P425 million in annual lease payments for the first 5 years of the contract (the first payment was made in 1997) or 5 percent of gross revenues (whichever is higher) and P150 million annually for the rest of the 25-year contract (which is renewable for another 25 years).

Sobrepeña said CJHDC deserved a reprieve from its lease payments because of the BCDA's failure to live up to its commitments since the Camp John Hay project was auctioned off in 1996.

Among the many problems encountered by the project proponents were the late delivery of the entire 247-hectare property to CJHDC (BCDA completed the turnover in 1998 when it swapped the Voice of America property for the 31-hectare lot it could not deliver), delays in granting pertinent permits and environment clearances, the protracted demolition of structures inside the property, and the cases filed by the project's critics.

Sobrepeña said the delays have put CJHDC in a "grossly disadvantageous" position because it was forced to miss it original timetable of 1996 to 2000 and face worsening economic and political conditions.

He said that despite the BCDA's failure to live up to its side of the bargain, CJHDC has been on track of its investment commitment to the project. CJHDC has pumped in P2.2 billion as of last year with the construction of cottages, 189-room Manor Hotel, and refurbishment of the golf course. CJHDC is committed to invest P2.6 billion in the project which Sobrepeña said his company would surpass with the construction of a commercial complex (anchored on a 3,000-seat convention center) and another 250-room hotel which would cost at least P1 billion this year.

Guilty or not gritty

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

BUT that is not the question. Facing the Bureau of Customs is a question beyond mere guilt or grit. The question already has something to do with punishment.

What penalty will the customs bureau impose on Taiwan Cement Corp., otherwise known as TCC, a foreign company that earned notoriety here?

That is the question. It seems to me that TCC is getting away with murder. The customs bureau is punishing TCC with a light tap on the knockle. ***Pitik lang***!

TCC is the company that, singlehandedly, almost brought the entire local cement industry down to its knees through the massive importation of cement from Taiwan.

Already, some 2,500 people in the industry lost their jobs. Most of them were in Mindanao. We all know what unemployment does to peace and order in the area.

Now the customs bureau has a solid case against TCC. It caught TCC redhanded, duping the government in its cement shipment from Taiwan. What happens to TCC now?

Well, basically, nothing much, really! Taking the rap for the Taiwanese company are some local fall guys. Now that is true grit. ***Gaspang***!

* * *

IT seems only yesterday, but it was actually last month, when Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva, the main man himself, ordered the investigation of TCC.

The customs bureau uncovered some "discrepancies" in the TCC shipping documents. "Discrepancies" is a nice word. Another word for it is "falsification."

Not only does the monstrous TCC, based on customs bureau documents, import a lot of Taiwanese cement into the country, but it also does a little recycling business.

It turns out TCC recycles some documents. The customs bureau found out that TCC used old documents to cheat on payment of duties and taxes.

In the old documents, TCC declared the cost of its cement importation at only $39 per metric ton. The customs bureau discovered the new real cost at $45 per metric ton.

By using the lower cost, TCC had to pay lower duties and taxes. These are based on the import price, and it's normally up to the importer to say how much it is.

But while the legal department of the customs bureau found TCC guilty of several offenses, as punishment, henceforth, it merely barred TCC from importing cement.

Against the Filipino customs brokers of TCC, on the other hand, the legal department is filing criminal charges. I don't know if the Taiwanese are laughing at us.

* * *

NOW Villanueva, as customs chief, has yet to issue the order himself. Whether or not he will merely adopt the legal department's position, is hard to say at this point.

But I'm sure that Villanueva is not stupid. He will impose stiffer penalties for TCC than just barring it from importation. So how hard is it to use dummies? Duh!

I am not saying that Villanueva must go for a beheading of TCC executives or something. It's just that, for a change, somebody must learn some lessons here.

When, a couple of years ago, TCC embarked on its mission to kill the local cement industry, imported cement accounted for only 1.4 percent of total demand.

Thanks to the laudable efforts of TCC, such as its cheating the customs bureau, today cement imports account for almost 35 percent of the demand. And all for what?

Big cement importers argued that they were only helping the consumers. Really now? They import cement at P50 per bag. They sell it to us at P140 per bag. Help my foot!

Unfortunately, firms like TCC employs Taiwanese in Taiwan. TCC doesn't bother to invest here. Maybe it is confident it can always cheat the government, anyway.

* * *

IF nowadays the LRTA administrator, a lawyer named Teddy Cruz Jr., looks stressed out, it's probably because Gloriaetta is breathing down his neck.

In mass transit projects, from what I gathered, you can't get any more hands-on than Gloriaetta. Gosh, she's more hands-on than your favorite masseuse.

The Light Rail Transit Authority, for instance, must report regularly to Glorinetta on three major projects or else . . . well, Cruz can easily go back to law practice, anyway.

Now the LRTA is the government company operating the LRT line between Baclaran and Monumento, which is the first ever mass transit system in the country.

Under the program of this cute administration, Cruz must expand the LRT capacity during rush hours from 27,000 per hour to only 40,000 per hour.

He has until yesterday to do it. I mean, it's the top priority of Gloriaetta for LRTA. In fact, this cute administration already set aside P1 billion for the project.

Now Cruz only needs to find P10 billion more. Its total cost can reach P11 billion—easily. This cute administration is tapping the Japanese government for the rest.

Bancom moves 10 branches

BANK of Commerce began yesterday a program to transfer 10 redundant branches to fully gain from its acquisition of Pan Asia Banking Corp. and Traders Royal Bank.

In an interview, Bank of Commerce president Raul de Mesa disclosed that Bank of Commerce's merger with Traders gave it 56 new branches. Some branches had to be moved because they were located in the same area, he said.

"We will relocate so that we effectively serve the needs of our clients and make the bank more geographically competitive," De Mesa told the INQUIRER.

The bank transferred yesterday a branch in Bicutan, Taguig, to Libis, Quezon City.

De Mesa also disclosed that apart from moving some branches, Bank of Commerce would also fully automate its network through an integrated banking system designed by Malaysian firm Silver Lake.

He disclosed that the bank was aiming for a profit this year of P351 million following its acquisition of Pan Asia and Traders.

The bank did not do well in terms of profit last year because it accelerated provisions for probable loan losses, he said.

Bank of Commerce has expressed interest in bidding for First E-Bank of Metro Pacific Corp.

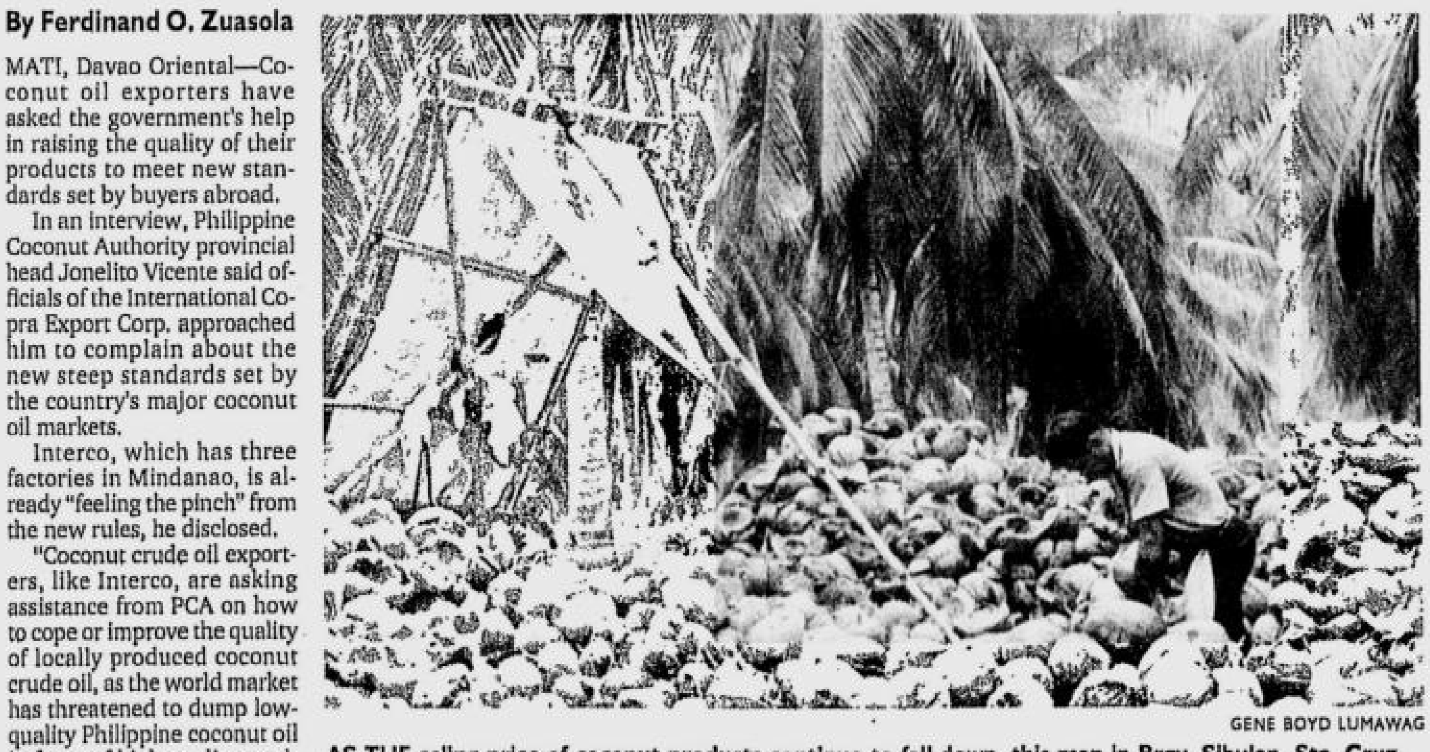
The major shareholders of Bank of Commerce are Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Antonio Cojuangco and property developer John Robert Sobrepeña's College Assurance Plan.

Bank of Commerce has assumed P12 billion worth of assets and another P12 billion in liabilities held by Traders following the two banks' merger.

In line with the transaction, the government has agreed to lend as much as P2 billion to Bank of Commerce to allow it to liquefy Traders' non-performing loans and non-performing assets.

Coco oil exporters seek gov't help to meet world standards

By Ferdinand O. Zuasola



GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

AS THE selling price of coconut products continue to fall down, this man in Brgy. Sibulan, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur says he has to husk up to 1,500 coconuts to feed his family three times each day.

MATI, Davao Oriental—Coconut oil exporters have asked the government's help in raising the quality of their products to meet new standards set by buyers abroad.

In an interview, Philippine Coconut Authority provincial head Jonelito Vicente said officials of the International Copra Export Corp. approached him to complain about the new steep standards set by the country's major coconut oil markets.

Interco, which has three factories in Mindanao, is already "feeling the pinch" from the new rules, he disclosed.

"Coconut crude oil exporters, like Interco, are asking assistance from PCA on how to cope or improve the quality of locally produced coconut crude oil, as the world market has threatened to dump low-quality Philippine coconut oil in favor of high-quality products of other coconut oil-exporting countries," he said.

Local coconut production has been falling in recent years. Last year, coconut production in Davao Oriental, the country's largest coconut producer, was cut in half to 216,710 metric tons from the previous year's output.

"This significant drop is mainly attributed to the government's stoppage of giving free fertilizers to coconut farmers," Vicente told the INQUIRER.

He said a World Bank-funded program that gave free fertilizers to coconut farmers ended in 2000.

The World Bank extended at least $121.8 million to the Philippine government in 1990 to increase coconut production in the country by giving free fertilizers to coconut growers.

Vicente, however, also blamed coconut farmers and traders for the declining quality of their products, as their practice of stockpiling copra—the dried kernel or meat of the coconut from which coconut oil is expressed—to await for higher prices had given rise to a problem involving aflatoxin, a toxic fungus that contaminates copra.

"Recognizing the limited capacity of the government to rev up the ailing coconut industry, local coconut crude oil exporters, like Interco, have volunteered to initiate moves that will teach coconut farmers how to increase their production and improve the quality of their copra," Vicente said.

He said the unabated massive cutting of coconut trees was another reason for the significant drop in local coconut production.

Coconut producers have been converting their farms into either rice fields or mango plantations to cope with falling copra prices, which hit P3 a kilo two years ago.

"The government is helpless in stopping the massive cutting of coconut trees. If this trend continues in the next two years, we will really be forced to retrench our workers," Michael Ling, purchasing manager of Interco, told the INQUIRER.

Interco is Davao Oriental's remaining big private employer after Davao Timber Corp. shut down in the late '80s. It employs about 150 people in the province.

From a high of P20 a kilo, copra prices fell to P3 a kilo in 1998 as the world market shifted to palm oil. ***With a report from Ryan D. Rosauro***

PPA seeks extension of Mindanao-Brunei pact

DAVAO CITY—The Philippine Ports Authority is seeking a two-year extension in the implementation of the uniform port charges for ships servicing the Mindanao-Brunei Darussalam route extended for a period of two years.

PPA General Manager Alfonso Cusi said the extension of the uniform charges would effectively continue the low cost of shipment in the East Asean Growth Area (EAGA), which groups the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.

Cusi said the lower rates also "facilitate the seamless flow of goods and services."

The uniform port rates for shipping firms plying the Mindanao-Brunei route were stipulated in the bilateral arrangement for common charges on vessels operating under the BIMP-EAGA Program, which was signed on July 8, 1999. The agreement, however, expired last August.

Under the agreement, shipping firms operating in both countries can avail themselves of a 50-percent discount on port dues and dockage fees.

The special rates are pegged at US$0.40 per gross registered tonnage (GRT) for port dues and US$ 0.020 per GRT per day for dockage. These special rates are applicable only when the vessel's last and following port of calls are in the BIMP-EAGA.

Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza, also chair of the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco), said that the proposed extension for the common port tariff would be discussed on Jan. 30-31, during the Philippine Ports and Maritime Mission to Brunei Darussalam.

He said this formed part of the government's efforts to revitalize the EAGA concept. ***Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Fed seen halting rate cuts

From page B1

But on Thursday, when he appeared before the Senate Budget Committee, Greenspan said he had not meant to cast doubt on the idea the economy was turning the corner, but merely to underscore that the "snapback" from recession might not as robust as it has been in previous business cycles.

The latest remarks dispelled notions he was leaning toward another rate cut.

"There have been signs recently that some of the forces that have been restraining the economy over the past year are starting to diminish and that activity is beginning to firm," the Fed chair said.

Greenspan said companies have been allowing their inventories of unsold goods to be drawn down to such low levels that they will need to step up production in the future.

But he did retain some elements of caution, noting there were "pluses and minuses" to the outlook for household spending and that profit pressures may weigh on the business sector. He also said it might take some time before it is clear that the recovery has taken hold.

Economist Mickey Levy at Bank of America said the mixed messages reflected Greenspan's trademark caution.

"Alan Greenspan has tended to be cautious around inflection points in the economy," Levy said. For his part, Levy said he had no doubt that a turning point was under way.

As always, Greenspan won't have sole discretion over interest rates. The policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee will try to formulate a consensus.

That panel has seen big changes. Two veteran governors, Edward Kelley and Laurence Meyer, won't attend the upcoming meeting. Kelley left the Fed at the end of last year. Meyer exits this month. Newcomers Susan Bies and Mark Olson will partake in their second meeting.

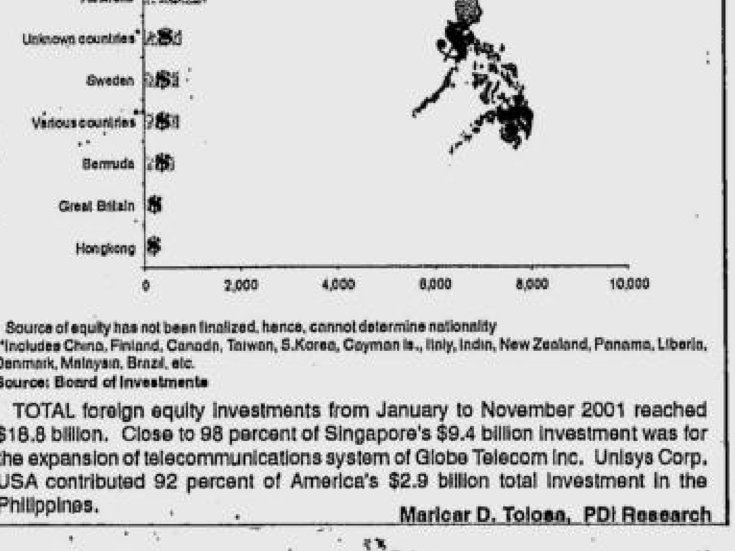
Both Kelley and Meyer will be missed at the Fed. Kelley is a plain-spoken businessman whose insights were seen as highly valuable to the central bank and Meyer is a renowned forecaster, who was seen as a counterweight to Greenspan but whose keen intellect was appreciated by the chair. ***Reuters***

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

BOI approved foreign equity investments

(January to November 2001, in $ millions)



* Source of equity has not been finalized, hence, cannot determine nationality

**Includes China, Finland, Canada, Taiwan, S.Korea, Cayman Is., Italy, India, New Zealand, Panama, Liberia, Denmark, Malaysia, Brazil, etc.

Source: Board of Investments

TOTAL foreign equity investments from January to November 2001 reached $18.8 billion. Close to 98 percent of Singapore's $9.4 billion investment was for the expansion of telecommunications system of Globe Telecom Inc. Unisys Corp. USA contributed 92 percent of America's $2.9 billion total investment in the Philippines.

Maricar D. Toloan, PDI Research

IABC/PHILIPPINES 1st National Conference

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS COMMUNICATORS

Aggie Pinili, Account Manager
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph
Aries Espinosa, Editor

MESSAGES

WE ARE HOLDING our national conference for the first time, and so we are determined to make it worthwhile for our members and guests.

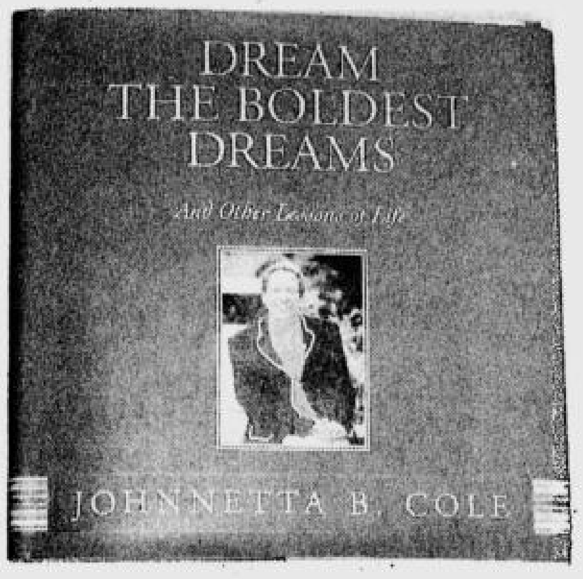
Since we formed the IABC local chapter, we have been sending members to the annual IABC international conventions. Those members who made up the delegation to one of these affairs, whether it was held in Dallas, Vancouver, Los Angeles, New Orleans or New York, can attest to the camaraderie and the learning process that the different nationalities bring to it.

There are a number of conferences going on simultaneously in an IABC convention. A wide-eyed delegate attending for the first time can be overwhelmed by the sheer number of conferences and workshops scheduled the whole day for three days. However, the purpose is not to intimidate but to give delegates the choice, taking into consideration their levels of professional development, competence, and interests. But there is nothing to prevent a newly hired communicator from attending a meeting that usually attracts senior vice presidents for corporate communications in transnational corporations.

As a result, even less-than-attentive participants become more confident, richer in experience, more mature in his or her approach to work. No way can we ever duplicate an IABC international convention. But we do hope to create a microcosm of the IABC universe in our corner of the world. It is our purpose to give local business communicators an opportunity to listen to the experts, meet and exchange experiences, and encourage and cross-pollinate one another's ideas.

If we can pull off something like that, we will consider this national conference a rousing success.

(Sgd.) RONI TAPIA-MERK
President, IABC Philippines



Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole's book, 'Dream the Boldest Dream,' offers great inspiration to everyone who has ever felt discouraged or boxed in from achieving his or her ambitions. A few copies of the book will be available at the Silent Auction feature of the conference today, Jan. 29, and Dr. Cole will be around to sign them.

WHEN the working committees first met to organize this conference, foremost in everyone's minds was the focus that the talks and interaction must give every delegate a valuable opportunity to go beyond what we already know.

Thus, the choice of distinguished and respected speakers and topics in the IABC Philippines matter.

The ties we have in IABC enable us to search worldwide for resources, issues, persons, methods and the latest research results and methods, and most important, emerging issues that will heavily impact on our profession and our business organizations.

More than just a conference, this Jan. 29 event is the start of more such knowledge gatherings. This also will institutionalize the Gold Quill Philippines Awards. It will open doors for more Philippine communicators' work to be recognized at the IABC international awards every year and for local communication professionals' continued efforts to excel and stand tall with international peers.

This conference is a renewal of our commitment to continuously bring to our fellow business communicators issues, information and developments in our industry, both here and abroad.

On behalf of the working committees, welcome!

(Sgd.) ELPI O. CUNA
Conference Chairman, 2002 IABC Philippines
National Communication Conference

AS WE FACE the challenge of professional communication in an age of disruptive change, let us consider for a moment that communicators are in a most privileged position in organizations today. We are well placed to influence our colleagues and guide them towards making the world a much better place.

May I congratulate the IABC chapter board on securing speakers as distinguished as Jaime Zobel de Ayala and Dr. Johnetta B. Cole (whom I've had the privilege to hear and know you will be uplifted by her words and inspired by her achievements).

May I thank those speaking at the conference for sharing their knowledge and insights with fellow communicators in the true IABC tradition so that they are empowered to be more effective professionally in their practice.

May I congratulate those attending the conference in making a great choice and urge you to have fun, share knowledge and learn together because that's what IABC is really all about. Finally, if you're not already a member I feel confident that your experience here today will encourage you to become one of 13,000 people around the world enjoying the benefits of belonging to a professional association that's working hard to support you in dealing with disruptive change.

(Sgd.) MERYL DAVID
Region Director
IABC Asia Pacific

CEOs hold forum in IABC confab

The International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Philippines chapter is holding a Chief Executive Officers' Forum during its day-long conference at the Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City on Jan. 29. The conference theme is "Communication in an Age of Disruptive Change."

The CEOs sharing their expertise are Jose Eduardo Delgado, president and CEO, Delbros; Luis Lorenzo Jr., chair and CEO, Lapanday Holdings; Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, president, Philippine Daily Inquirer; and Margarito Teves, president, LandBank.

In the line-up of speakers are Emily Abrera, chair, McCann Erickson; James Amatavivadhana, director and general manager for marketing, The Coca-Cola Export Corp.; and Bish Mukherjee, president of IABC/Australia New South Wales chapter, and currently marketing advisor to New York-based ballet company Perspectives In Motion and Hollywood-based computer graphics company Digital Arts Studio.

Keynote speaker is Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Ayala Corp. chair while American educator and anthropologist Dr. Johnnetta Cole serves as special guest speaker.

There will also be four workshops at the national conference. These workshops tackle IT-based media with Dave Fernando, president, Next Stage, Inc.; advocacy and lobbying with communication consultant Hector Villacorta; crisis communication with IABC director Cosette Romero and vice president Bong Osorio, president, Campaigns Advocacy and Public Relations Inc.; and measuring communication effectiveness with communication consultant Felix Bautista Jr.

A communications exhibit and silent auction is also set to take place.

The conference is also presenting the first Gold Quill Philippines Awards in the evening. The best communications programs in the country are recognized by the awards.

What Drives You

Creating a better future.

With your help, **Caltex Fund** is working with 14 institutions in key cities across the nation to provide street children with shelter, scholarships, and skills & livelihood training. After all, a nation's future rests on its children.

What Drives You CALTEX

US 'national treasure' in IABC conference

DR. JOHNNETTA Cole, considered a "national treasure" in the United States and author of the best-seller "Dream the Boldest Dream", is coming to the Philippines for the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Philippine chapter's conference at the Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City today.

Cole, together with Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Zobel de Ayala, are the main speakers at the conference. They will tackle the theme "Communication in an Age of Disruptive Change". They will be joined by Jose Eduardo Delgado, president and CEO, Delbros; Luis Lorenzo Jr., chair and CEO, Lapanday Holdings; Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, president, Philippine Daily Inquirer; and Margarito Teves, president, LandBank.

Rounding out the lineup of speakers are Emily Abrera, chair, McCann Erickson; James Amatavivadhana, director and general manager for marketing, The Coca-Cola Export Corp., and Bish Mukherjee, president of IABC/Australia New South Wales chapter, and currently marketing advisor to New York-based ballet company Perspectives In Motion and Hollywood-based computer graphics company Digital Arts Studio.

Cole began her college studies at Fisk University and completed her undergraduate degree at Oberlin College. She earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in anthropology from the Northwestern University before embarking on a 37-year career in teaching and research in the areas of cultural anthropology, African American Studies and Women's Studies.

She made history in 1987 when she became the first African American woman to serve as president of Spelman College. Under her leadership, Spelman received a coveted number one rating by *US News and World Report* in its 1992 "Best College Buys" issue. She is now President Emerita of Spelman College. That same year, Cole was named to Pres. Bill Clinton's transition team as cluster coordinator for education, labor, and arts and humanities.

After a decade at Spelman, she returned to teaching at Emory University, where is Professor Emerita. In 1998, she was appointed by Pres. Clinton to the 11-member Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History. In 1999, she was appointed to Gov. Roy Barnes Education Reform Study Commission.

COLE

ZOBEL DE AYALA

RONI Tapia-Merk with Johnnetta Cole at the IABC Confab in New York. The US 'national treasure', author of 'Dream the Boldest Dreams & Other Lessons of Life,' and educator visits Manila for the IABC conference and autograph signing.

Cole, who is also a best-selling author, is considered a "national treasure" in the United States for her invaluable contributions to the fields of anthropology, women's studies, and rights of people of color.

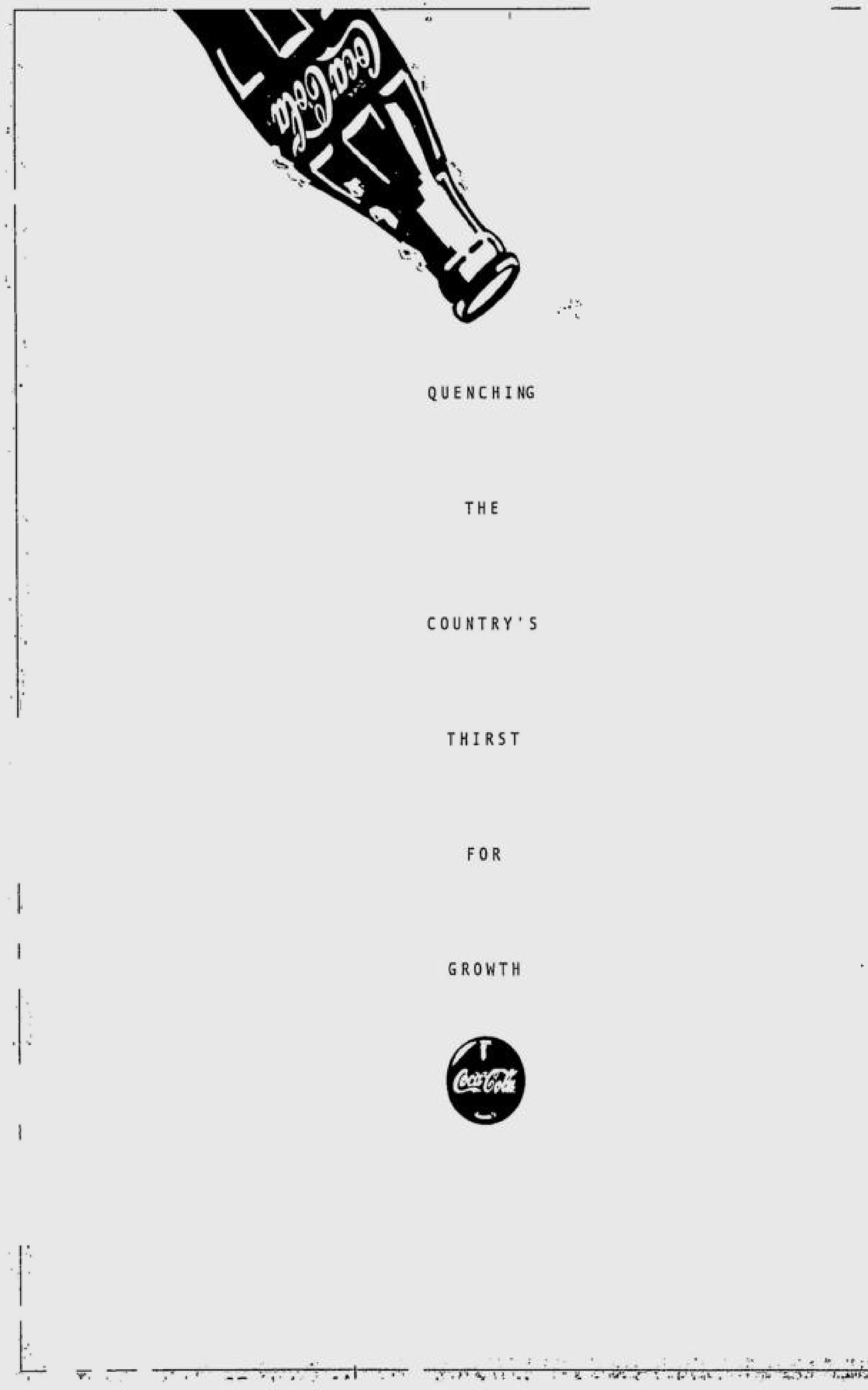
She is a much-sought after speaker, being a favorite choice of the IABC International Conferences. The IABC is an international learning community of professionals committed to improving the effectiveness of organizations through strategic communication.

The IABC Philippine chapter, led by its president Veronica Tapia-Merk, is composed of senior communications professionals from the country's top corporations.

For information on the conference, call Ernest Loquinario or Buboy Sarte at 845-5380, 845-5533 or 816-9439 or register online at iabc_ph@mac.com.

IABC Philippines executive board members: Elpi Cuna, Meralco director for corporation communication; Roni Tapia-Merk, BPI vice president, corporate communication; Cosette Romero, IABC director; Rey David, Great Wall Advertising president; Ben Milano, director, Technological Information Promotion System; Gretchen Recto, president, Lifewatch Communications; Mila Llonin, Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils. vice president; Ramon Osorio, Campaigns and Grey president; Al Ballesca, AG Ballesca PR; and Art Cariaga, IABC secretary general. Not shown is Edwin Hernandez, vice president, Jardine Ag-Chem.

After 150 years,
The First Still Does It Best.
89-100
Bank of the Philippine Islands.
Now celebrating 150 years of banking leadership.
150 YEARS
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership
Member PDIC (Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P100,000.00)
http://www.bpiexpressonline.com



IABC/PHILIPPINES
Gold Quill PHILIPPINES

COMMUNICATION IN AN AGE OF
DISRUPTIVE CHANGE

You can't miss this chance to see and hear
on Tuesday, January 29, 2002
at the Hotel Intercon

Gary Teves
Jaime Zobel de Ayala
Chairman
Ayala Corporation
Johnnetta B. Cole
Luis Lorenzo
Eduardo Delgado
Emily Abrera
Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez
President
Philippine Daily Inquirer
James Amatavivadhana
Bish Mukherjee

WORKSHOPS Crisis Communication, IT-based Media, Advocacy and Lobbying, Measuring Communication Effectiveness

The International Association of Business Communicators
Philippine Chapter
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Registration starts at 8:00 a.m.
GOLD QUILL AWARDS
Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.
Open to all communication practitioners and students
Call Secretariat: 845-5380 and 816-9435
(0919) 640-6446 and (0917) 739-5435

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION
AYALA CORPORATION
Oakwood
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Communication workshops in IABC conference

FOUR simultaneous communication workshops are featured in the national conference of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Philippine chapter on Jan. 29 at the Hotel Intercon, Makati City.

These workshops tackle IT-based media with Dave Fernando, Next Stage Inc. president; advocacy and lobbying with communication consultant Hector Villacorta; crisis communication with IABC director Cosette Romero and executive vice president Bong Osorio, Campaigns Advocacy and Public Relations Inc. president; and measuring communication effectiveness with communication consultant Felix Bautista Jr.

The day-long conference presents keynote speaker Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Ayala Corporation chair; and special guest speaker Dr. Johnnetta Cole, American educator, anthropologist and author.

The CEO Forum, on the other hand, is led by Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, Philippine Daily Inquirer president; Jose Eduardo Delgado, Delbros president and CEO; Luis Lorenzo Jr., Lapanday Holdings chair and CEO; and Margarito Teves, LandBank president.

The line-up of conference speakers include Emily Abrera, McCann Erickson chair; James Amatavivadhana, The Coca-Cola Export Corp. director and general manager for marketing; and Bish Mukherjee, president of IABC/Australia New South Wales.

The event culminates with the first Gold Quill Philippines Awards in the evening. The awards honor the outstanding works by local communication professionals.

The IABC Philippines chapter, led by its president Veronica Tapia-Merk, is composed of senior communications professionals from the country's top corporations. IABC is a learning community for professionals committed to improving the effectiveness of organizations through strategic communication.

Conference fee is P5,000 inclusive of lunch, dinner, snacks, handouts and materials. Call tel. no. 845-5380, 893-7320 or 816-9439 for inquiries or e-mail your registration at iabc_ph@mac.com.

Insular Life's 10-star life

TAKING care of oneself and one's well-being should be everybody's priority. And why not? One can only look after the needs of one's family if he or she is healthy and well. That is why Insular Life has created a product that takes care of any of life's eventualities, so that should the unexpected happen, there is assurance that he and his family will be financially secured.

Introducing Insular Life's 10-Star Life Plan. 10-Star Life is a basic life insurance plan that if flexible enough to add health and disability benefits such that it ensures financial security and protection for one's family, provides financial assistance in case the insured gets hospitalized and gives the insured replacement income in case of temporary loss of income due to accident or disability.

10-Star Life Plan's premium payments is guaranteed for only 10 short years yet the insured is protected until he reaches age 99. Life insurance benefits equivalent to the coverage of the plan are paid either as maturity benefit to the insured if he lives up to age 99 or as death benefit to the beneficiaries upon the death of the insured. Hospitalization benefits may be availed of in units. One unit is equivalent to P250 per day up to a maximum of 1,000 days of confinement. One can avail of as many as six units, and should confinement be due to dread disease, hospitalization benefits are doubled. What's more, the plan pays the insured a certain percentage of the coverage of the policy as replacement income if he becomes disabled.

Pay only for the coverage and the benefits you want in the amount you need. No more, no less. All these benefits in Insular Life's 10-Star Life plan.

Insular Life is the first and largest Filipino life insurance company that continuously serves the needs and looks after the well-being of Filipinos for 91 years now.

People.
Our power source

At Meralco, there is one constant:
OUR CUSTOMER.

Our dedication to achieve Total Customer Satisfaction powers our mission to provide the highest standards of service.

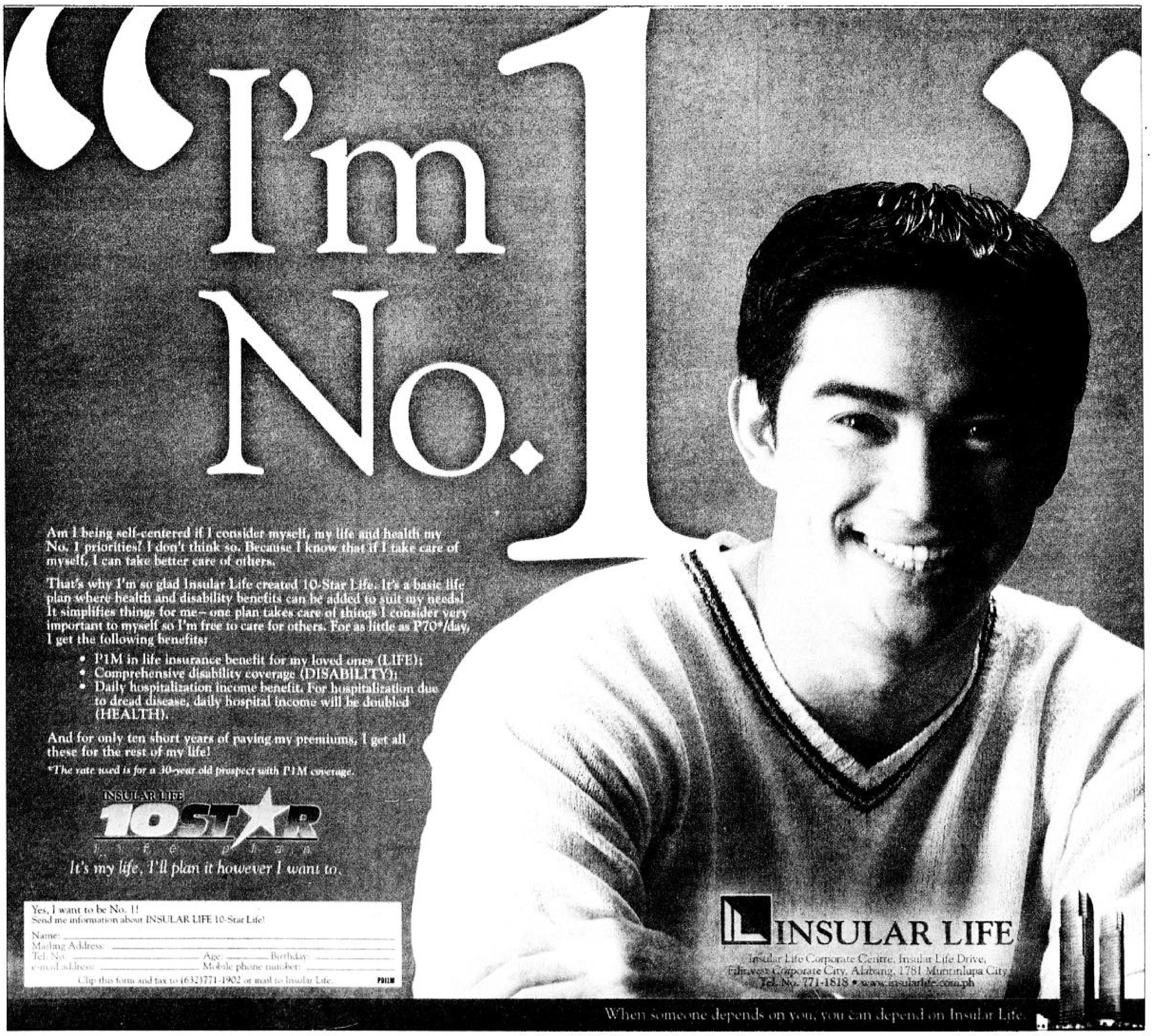
We unleash the power within each of our individual employees. We get the most qualified people. Then we transform them into empowered customer-focused individuals.

The power to be their best. The power to provide quality service. The power to be creative, productive, efficient and reliable. For you, THE CUSTOMER.

At Meralco people power us.

The Power of Excellence.

MERALCO
www.meralco.com.ph
callcenter@meralco.com.ph
hotline: 631-1111/16211



Am I being self-centered if I consider myself, my life and health my No. 1 priorities? I don't think so. Because I know that if I take care of myself, I can take better care of others.

That's why I'm so glad Insular Life created 10-Star Life. It's a basic life plan where health and disability benefits can be added to suit my needs! It simplifies things for me – one plan takes care of things I consider very important to myself so I'm free to care for others. For as little as P70*/day, I get the following benefits:

- P1M in life insurance benefit for my loved ones (LIFE);
- Comprehensive disability coverage (DISABILITY);
- Daily hospitalization income benefit. For hospitalization due to dread disease, daily hospital income will be doubled (HEALTH).

And for only ten short years of paying my premiums, I get all these for the rest of my life!

The rate used is for a 30-year old prospect with P1M coverage.

INSULAR LIFE 10 STAR life plan

It's my life, I'll plan it however I want to.

Yes, I want to be No. 1!
Send me information about INSULAR LIFE 10-Star Life!
Name: ______
Mailing Address: ______
Tel. No. ______ Age: ______ Birthday: ______
e-mail address: ______ Mobile phone number: ______
Clip this form and fax to (632)771-1902 or mail to Insular Life. PDILM

INSULAR LIFE
Insular Life Corporate Centre, Insular Life Drive,
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, 1781 Muntinlupa City
Tel. No. 771-1818 • www.insularlife.com.ph

When someone depends on you, you can depend on Insular Life.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 (9129011 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P230 per column centimeter
P65 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication
Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
SCARS Ex SWEAT ALLERGIES
15 Annapolis, Greenhills
Call 7276124 to 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Matrinco Bldg. 2178 P. Tamo 8175071

DENTAL

DENTAL CLINIC BF P'que w/ Xray & Other Equipt. P180,000.00 Tel.560-2303

PERSONAL

ACCOUNTANT

Bookkeeping / Accounting Services
Call or Text 0917-8312369

ARCHITECTS

P6T Hse/Bldg Plan 8819158

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

P7T/m² swimmingpool 7282605

MASSAGE

BANAUE SPA M&F 7411426

BOYZ 2DMX 8348875

Glen9264664-09198457226

H-H-MS MALE 7314018

H.S. Massage09163924700

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8511883

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

•New Mabuhay Massage•
Everyday Promo 421-5996

Pretty,European Girl 09192625922

UNWIND 752-0437

VIP-M/F-24H-SVC 8312373 Romy

REFLEXOLOGY

ASK JASPER 5758077

Edgar Reflex 7503640 HHS

Edward Reflex 7289285

EXOTIC TOUCH(M) 8129107

Field of Dreams Extended
Promo up to Feb. P400
Call 712-3699 / 712-1066

REFLEX CARLA 716-4898

Scorpion Massg 4372542

TUTORIAL LESSONS

• LIGHT-5268216 OR 70 •

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Avble Maids Fr. Province 1st Time Mla 445-0513, 291-4524

BEST MAID 411-1593/741-9082

Direct Maid Yaya Driver 7572089

Good Maid Yaya Driver 757-0579

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

IDEAL MAIDS 4934583

MAIDS•2594067•2590869

PACIFIC MAIDS ETC
SINCE 1948 T:7312672

RELIABLE HONEST MAIDS W/ NBI4212938/4213253

We have nurse mwife, maids PT hmecare4128513/3864375

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 LIPAT BAHAY 4313974

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

LIPAT CHEAP 6220956

Lipat Bahay • 824-1227

LIPAT BAHAY w/5 helpers 24 hrs. svc 7128861 / 7315750

CARPET CLEANING

Sofa Shampooing 8207068

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

NEAR ST. SCHO
BNew Twnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/grge P2.695M up 8903461 loc 34

NEWLY RENOVATED
DUPLEX HOUSE LOCATED AT UNIVERSITY BELT READY FOR ACCUPANCY. SEE TO APPRECIATE P1.6M NEG. INQUIRE: SUNSHINE 1542 G. TUAZON ST. COR AH LACSON SAMPALOC, MANILA ASK FOR SHIRLEY 749-7163 BROKERS ARE WELCOME

MARIKINA

Grnind bnew 3br 2M 9487112

Rushi Calumpang LA 293 2BR+1TB 0917-5282174

MUNTINLUPA

Ayala Alabang 900m²/700m² /500sqm Neg 0917-5282174

PARANAQUE

Marcelo HL P2.7M 645-9931 ·

QUEZON CITY

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS
2sty 5rms 6TB 650m²LA Vacant lot w/ view avble
929-1832 • 426-5650

Malaya St., cor. Banaue 7314018

Pentiumill 22T 0917-7918952

QC, 8.5M 3STRY FA290m² LA150m² Full furnished 5BR4TB 2Kitchen 2Balcony 1Large Terrace Maid Room & CR Concr. Roof Attr. Design
Tel. 951-3181

RIZAL

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

Rare offer 4 PAGIBIG Members! Anopolo Thse P3.500 monthly amort. 0919-6532049

OTHER AREAS

RUSHICanyonWoods Btngas 6.5M 0917-8143792

LOT

MANDALUYONG

5000m² Lot & Various Lots in Mand. 534-6610 Jojo

MUNTINLUPA

PLEASANT VILL w/direct access road to FILINVEST Alabang 477m² P4,500/m² Vic Gigie 8903461 loc. 27/25

SOUTH GREENHTS VILL 300m² P1.15M Vic 8903461L.27

QUEZON CITY

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots now available 204-290m² @ P9.500-P12,160 Pay 20%(In 2 mo.)Bal 5 yrs Mo. Inst. Few Lots Only w/ Complete Facilities RUSHI 9319117; 9319160 T.Banez

RIZAL

Nr Robinson VVerde 2401275

Taytay 70sqm 09178174547

PROVINCIAL

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P1.4M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

OTHER AREAS

TOWN&COUNTRY Southville 200m² P680T Vic 8903461L.27

VISTA VERDE EXEC VILLAGE LA319m² P1.3M Vic/Gigie 8903461 loc. 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

MAKATI

2BR Condo 1.5M Terms Less 10% Rent 2 Own Lipat Agad 8674916 09192176735 09194341800

C5 Nr The Fort 988T
10T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD!
Call 0917-8160849 • 148176984

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

MAKATI

Fully Furnished Unit 1202 Westgate Plaza H.V. Dela Costa St, Salcedo Village Mkt Call 893-6783 • 893-6152 • 0918-9157082 See to Appreciate!!!

MANILA

2BR Condo w/ Parking Near DLSU 1.9M 0919-5863816

Providence Tower Malate Studio Type 0917-5282174

MANDALUYONG

Loe Gardens Condo Std 3br Easy Pymnt 534-6610 Jojo

Various Mand. Town-hse @ Low Price 534-6610 Jojo

Various Wack' Condo Low Price Call 534-6610 Jojo

QUEZON CITY

TandangSora 3br+1md 2tb P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

TandangSora Tiera Pura Embassy 2BR2TB w/ Attic P2.5M Call 0446002075

UNION SQ ONE FA80m² P2M 1BR 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc. 27

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

CB RICHARD ELLIS
B.New Res. Units For Lease
Essensa-Luxury 3BR
Fort Bonifacio, 290 sqm.
Oxford-FF Studio/1BR
P.Burgos, Makati, 35-99 sqm.
Classica Tower-123BR
Salcedo Village, Makati
43-157 sqm., 18-85K UF/FF
Burgundy Westbay-123BR
V.Cruz-Taft near Lasalle
14-37K, 42-90 sqm.
comml units
More properties available:
7522580, 7594091
8487388, 7500127
7592335, 09178381928
manila@cbrichardellis.com

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

Apt. Blum. Ext. corner Retiro QC call Myrna 928-7856

HOUSE

MAKATI

SANLO DUPLEX 5268048

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR 9650 Pililia Mkt 5218333

MANILA

Condo apt. 841 Gov.Forbes near UST 8103019 7312148

MANDALUYONG

Governors Place
Shaw Blvd Unfurnished 32sqm Studio at w/ Parking Tel. Cable-Ready 534-0001 • 0917-8323537 Christy

San Francisco Gardens Boni 87sqm 3br 2tb w/Prkng Mds Qtr w/tb 0917-8150829

PASIG

3BR FFur RES8888 Ortigas Ctr 7224359 / 7257997

Ortigas 1-2-3BR's 882-8196

BEDSPACE

FBEDSPACE 1.5T QC 3730877

Wanted Lady Bed Spacer Mand. 867-2591 • 867-2589

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

LOAN & MORTGAGE

CAR SANGLA • INSTANT!
WHILE -U- WAIT
924-1254 • 925-9121 • 926-4160
We Also Buy Used Cars

BUSINESS RENTAL

MAKATI nr BUENDIA
Plamo 38/85/62/185m² 1st class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

San Juan Ofc Space P105T Neg FA-1335m² Nice No Bkrs 725-1037

WHOLE 4TH FLR 396 SQM P75,000/MO. UMC BLDG. 900 UN AVE NR LRT 521-1114

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

MIREA TRADING
NEW GRACE
Musso 4x4 Galloper 4x4
MB100 (Benz) Besta 2.2 4x4
Tel. 681-6406
Cel: 0917-9657482
0919-7518488

HONDA

94 Civic LX LDD 823-4014

KIA

Besta Van P205T (Neg)
671-3535 / 733-2507 / 0917-8472716

MAZDA

97 Familia GLX A/T Blk CD 280T Neg. 0919-5863816

MERCEDES

ML2001 270CDI 8000Milage Silver 3.2M 637-8101 • 637-8080 Gret

NISSAN

2000 EXALTA STA A1 530T Sroof A1pwr Org 930-9538

'91 Nissan Patrol
Black A1 Cond Chrome Mags Wooden Strng See to Appreciate Glen 746-6713

TOYOTA

Revo SR LK Sep 2000 P450T Call Glen M. Call 631-5652

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

10/40Kva Genset Kubota 4x4P55T 3672002; 3610215

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

BNEW VAN 8254058 8261045

CAR VANS 413-5383

HI ACE VANS •8252988•

HiAce, L300 9296250

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

MB HiAce L3 Urvan 8257135

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L300 CARS 7268360

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3577523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8066633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

Car Released 30Mins. 8990215

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

Computer 4 Sales CEL300 HDD 3.2gram 64MB CDROM 32w/50 Und Card Keyboard Mouse VGA Card&15monitor P14,500 •Call 0425854240•

PIII-450 10GB HDD 64MB RAM 50xCDRom Comp. Set 937-5249 / 936-8590 P18,000

PETS

Beagle Pups For Sale Male, Female w/ PCCI Champline P13500 Call 842-9331

DOG TRAINER 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL
Tel 721-3736

SPORTING GOODS

Billiards P30/33/36/38 A1 Qlty-Bnew 8020566/8014494

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7259887

GERRY BUY CARS•4342613•

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

SALE EDUC'L PLAN 8061574

WE BUY ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09174383744

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Auto Detailing Crew
with Experience • 743-0245

PLAN/BUILD 046-8521399

FEMALE

Dalaga Labandera 726-1266

SECRETARY
College Graduate, Single w/ Pleasing Personality 21-26 Yrs Old Call at 404-1782 Look 4 Thess

Susan Employment Agency
Tel.# 447-0637 or 447-8852
Piggery Boy, Poultry Boy,
Hardinero, Ricemill Boy
House Boy, Roomboy
Contact: Bhong or Susan

Wanted Maid Call Rachel
842-2056/(0916)328-0286

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280722

FIELD OF DREAMS WANTED M/F REFLEXOLOGIST 18-25 YRS OLD 712-1066 / 7123699

Home Eco Teacher 4128599/7637127

JOB OPPORTUNITIES
CALL 1-908-729-5627
or 924-1402

OFC STAFF 9134470 Mariel

OFC STAFF 9134470 JACKY

OFC STAFF 9328082 Aris

ERRATUM

In the ad of National Power Corporation published in this paper, January 26 & 28, 2002, the Bidding Date should have been read **e-Bidding Date**.

Our apologies

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY
In compliance to RA 7041
1 ATTORNEY IV
Please send application letter and resumé to
HRD-LIVECOR,
8/F Hanston Building,
Emerald Avenue,
Pasig City
on or before
February 12, 2002.

MALE/FEMALE

Office Manager
W/ Experience Marketing, Customer Oriented, Computer literate 0919-2264232

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Specialized In USA/Japan /Canada/Europe & other Int'l Tourist VISA & Canadian/Aust. Zealand Imm./Student VISA Assist T5228390/95

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Candle Making 0917-4572623

•Double Your Income•
Working 1hr/Day fr home My 1st 90 days I Made P130T fr home 9293736

EARN & TRAVEL 0919-6165084

Earn Up to 29T/mo. by Paying Ur Monthly Bills 6335527 /6335528/4536630

Earn Up to 29T/mo. By Paying UR Monthly Bills 633-5527 • 633-5528 • 453-6562

Glbe11%Smrt 11.5% 745-9351

Great News! If you are not earning over 200T/mo.@ ur present network bus. Let's Talk Now 807-2359 RESH

JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSINESS FREE TRAINING 2654643 OR 44 2569331 OR 36

RTW InventorySale 3738821

WE BUY
LANDBANK BOND
Agrarian Reform 10-Yr. Bond 643-5529; 0917-7922363 Ver

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH
Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.
This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.
Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day. It has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION FINANCING CORPORATION

Suite 303 Erlag Building, 102 Esteban Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City

URGENTLY NEEDS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

Bachelor's degree from an accredited University in Finance, Accounting or Business, MBA, Law or equivalent advanced degree is required.

At least 10 years of progressive management experience in rural electrification or financing institutions preferably dealing with electric utilities. Last 5 years of experience should have been in upper level Management of the institutions. Able to understand complex finance, legal, accounting and business concepts and leadership qualities.

Male between 35 to 50 years of age
Starting Salary: Php 60,000.00

CHIEF FINANCIAL MANAGER (CFM)

Bachelor's degree from an accredited University in Finance, Accounting or Business, CPA, MBA or equivalent advanced degree is required.

At least 7 years of progressive management experience in financing institutions preferably dealing with electric utilities. Last 3 years of experience should have been in upper level Management Areas of Finance lending or accounting of the institutions. Able to understand complex finance, legal, accounting and business concepts.

Male or Female between 35 to 45 years of age
Starting Salary: Php 45,000.00

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Bachelor's degree from an accredited University in any field.

At least 5 years of progressive management experience in financing institutions preferably dealing with electric utilities. Last 2 years of experience should have been in upper level Management of the institutions. Skills in personnel administration and motivation.

Male or Female of not lower than 30 years of age.
Starting Salary: Php 30,000.00

SECRETARY/ENCODER

Bachelor's degree in an accredited University in any field. Proficient in oral and written communication. Knowledgeable in Word Processing and spreadsheet is a must.

Female of not lower than 25 years of age.
Starting Salary: Php 15,000.00

Interested persons can pick-up an information packet at the PHILRECA Office, 4th Floor, Casman Building, 1198 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, Telephone Nos. 3741198, 3741199, 3724913 and 3742538. You can submit your resumé at the same office not later than February 8, 2002.

Contact Persons: **ROSALINO M. CULALIC**, President or **WENDELL V. BALLESTEROS**, General Manager.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Address: Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box Nos. 213 U.P. Quezon City, 932 Manila, 1314 Central, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 929-6010 to 19; Fax No. 920-1646

INVITATION TO APPLY ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) is inviting all interested contractors for our forthcoming public bidding for:

SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF NEW FIRE ALARMS SYSTEM FOR ARC LABORATORY BUILDING

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Bidding Documents : **February 1, 2002**
Pre-bid Conference : **To be announced later**
Bidding : **To be announced later**
Bid Document Fee : **P 75.00**

The approved budget is Four Hundred Eighty Thousand Pesos (P480,000.00).

For inquiries, interested parties may contact the PBAC Secretariat at Tel. Nos. 9296011 to 19 loc. 275 (c/o Julie Mendoza).

The Bids and Awards Committee and the Institute reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect thereto, accepts bids as may be deemed advantageous thereto or postponed the bidding for whatever cause it may deem proper.

In case of failure, a re-bidding shall automatically be scheduled five (5) calendar days after the announcement of failed bidding at the same time and place as the first bidding.

(Sgd.) **ALUMANDA M. DELA ROSA, Ph.D.**
Acting Director

(PDI -- Jan. 29. 2002)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

January 9, 2002

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar projects (at least 50% of Contract Cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to bid for the contracts listed as follows:

Contract Package	Scope of Works	Contract Cost (Php)	PCAB Category	IAC Classification
1. Tammong Housing Project, Kamahardikaan, Indanan, Sulu	Core Housing Construction	3.500 M	B	Medium "A" for Building
2. Jolo Eagles Cooperative Housing Project, Patikul, Sulu	Road, drainage, survey works	3.136 M	B	Medium "A" for Roads
3. Butuan City New Villages, Phase 1, Bgy Mahay, Butuan City	Road, drainage, sewerage, survey works	14.600 M	A	Medium "B" for Roads
4. Improvement of Iloilo Project Office Mandurriao, Iloilo City	Extension of Office Building	1.863 M	B	Small "A" for Building

A. Eligibility Statement Forms, bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, Second Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of the following: a) Letter of Intent b) PCAB/IAC License, c) Certificate of Completion/Acceptance and Contract Agreement of completed similar project, and d) Presentation of above-cited original documents for authentication purposes.
B. Interested contractors may contact the BAC Secretariat with Telephone Nos. 929-6016 and 926-4561 to 65 local 282 for additional information.
C. Payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 per set for Contracts 1-3 and P500.00 for Contract 4 shall be received only from authorized representatives.
D. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check.
E. Deadline of submission of LOI/issuance of bid documents is on January 30, 2002. Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference and other bidding activities shall be announced later.
F. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any minor defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI -- Jan. 16, 21 & 29, 2002)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) ax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CIT
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZO ITY
☎ 912-9008-11 (9129011 2-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMIT ANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 ax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.co

OBITUARIES

RATE
P230 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

"Blessed are the dead
Who died in the Lord."
Rev. 14:13

CO LIM SI TEE

NOV. 22, 1913 - JAN. 26, 2002

The loving wife of the late

Co Bun Chun,

has peacefully joined her Lord & Saviour at the age of 90.
Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will miss her dearly.

Candice† & Kenneth Ty, Sr.
Kenneth, Jr. & Carmela Ty
Howard Ty†

* * *

Henry† & Elizabeth N. Co†
Genevieve & Tommy Chua
Caroline Grace Chua
Ray Burton Co†
Melody & Homer Lim
Hans Matthew Lim
Johanna Loren Lim
Carol N. Co
Edward Henry Co
Kevin Nathaniel Co

* * *

James, Sr.† & Mary T. Co,
Anne Marie & Patrick Lawrence Tan
Christofer Lawrence Tan
Timothy Lawrence Tan
Matthew Lawrence Tan
David Jonathan Co
James Co, Jr.

Luis & Pauline S. Co.
Alvin Milton & Becky Co
Bill Louis & Myra Co
Nicholas Louis Co
Gail Bonnie & Maurice Laude

* * *

Mary & Thomas Sy
Sharon & Ashley Lao
Shireen & Jeffrey Kopp
Nicole Kopp
Matthew Sy
Mark Sy

* * *

Naty & Edison Chua
Edna Mae & Robert Gemus
Lynn Anne & James Moulds
Haven Paige Moulds
Ethan James Moulds
Ruth Kimberly & Daniel Nickles
Laurence Ephraim & Laura Chua
Joseph Daniel Chua

Lydia & Dewey Veloso Yap
Johann Yap
Solomon Yap
Dave Yap
Don Yap

* * *

Elizabeth Rachael L. Co
Lawrence & Katrina Tionglico
Lanz Rafael Tionglico
Oliver Tionglico
Vienn Tionglico

* * *

Janet & Manuel Ley
Richard Noel Ley
Monica Joy Ley
Carla Kay Ley
Richmond Regan Ley
Mikaela Natasha Ley

* * *

Fely & Johnny K. Simpson
Jeffrey Filbert Simpson
Jane Crystal Simpson
Joy Faith Simpson

Her remains lie in state at Capilla de la Virgen, Sanctuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Makati
and will be transferred on Friday, February 1, 2002 at 8:00 in the morning to
United Evangelical Church of the Philippines,
1170 Benavidez Street, Binondo, Manila
where a Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 in the afternoon
Interment will follow thereafter at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

"You must love the Lord your God
With all your heart, with all your soul,
With all your mind, and with all your strength."
Mark 12:30

Our Dearest PAPA and LOLO

PGK JOSE TONGSON NOLASCO

(Council 6677 St. Joseph the Worker, Palanan, Makati)

Went home to the Father on Sunday, January 27, 2002 at the age of 87.

His wife **INI**; children **ANNA & JOEL JUICO, TING, CECILE & JESSE JAVILLONAR**; and grandchildren **ANGELA, JOANNA, AMARIS, BRAD, BEA** and **MIGGY**; and all his friends of the Focolare Movement request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. John Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 30, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City, after the 1:00 PM Mass.

HONORABLE SENECIO O. ORTILE

Administrator, Land Registration Authority

Has peacefully joined our Creator
on January 27, 2002
at the age of 69.

His bereaved wife **Lucy Angara-Ortile**; children **Gregorio**, **Lauro & Lucille**, **Ronald & Anjanette**, **Renato & Gina**, and **Raul & Liza**; grandchildren **Miguel Alberto, Matthew, Joshua Mark, Patricia Louise, Isabella, Rafael Antonio,** and **Iñigo Vinçenzo**; brother **Jose**; and other relatives request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe.

Interment will be at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque. Interment date will be announced later. Mass is being held daily, 8:00 PM at Loyola Memorial Chapels.

"A butterfly flies beside us like a sunbeam,
And for a brief moment its glory and beauty
belongs to our world. But then it flies on again,
and though we wish it could have stayed,
we feel so lucky to have seen it."

"Even if I go through the deepest darkness,
I will not be afraid, Lord, for You are with me."
Psalm 23:4

ARACELI (CELY) MACASAET vda. de CASTILLO

who joined her Creator and husband,
the late Lt. Col. Victor A. Castillo
on January 23, 2002.

She is survived by her children, brother and sisters, in-laws, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Her body lies in state at the Miraculous Medal Chapel, Fernando Air Base, Lipa City.

Interment will be on Thursday, January 31, 2002, at the Floral Gardens, Lipa City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

CLETO S. CASTILLO

of Laoag City and Tuguegarao City

Peacefully joined our Lord on
January 27, 2002
at the age of 96.

His loving children **Von & Lina, Clarissa & Ed, Rommel & Jane, Norma**; grandchildren and relatives ask for your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Babaran Funeral Homes, Tuguegarao City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 2, 2002.

I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.
John 17:9

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc 6592
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Second Publication)

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the ***SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NIGHT VISION WEAPON SIGHTS (NVWS)***, with an approved budget of ***Forty Nine Million Seven Hundred Sixty Six Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (Php 49,766,400.00)*** under the **AFP Modernization Program**.

Only bids from entities which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build or otherwise produce said Night Vision Weapon Sights shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting ***January 29, 2002*** until ***February 13, 2002*** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat. Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of ***Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)*** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***February 13, 2002*** at ***1:00 PM** (local time)* at the *Silid Panday Pira, CJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.* Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and the bid envelopes is on ***March 15, 2002 at 9:00 AM** (local time)* after which the Opening of Bids shall immediately follow. Venue is at *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **NARCISO L. ABAYA**
Lt General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Jan. 28 & 29, 2002)

Sweet Nothings

SAMPLE ADS

This Valentine season, let the world know how much that special someone means to you by writing that heartfelt love note in the widest read and circulated broadsheet in the country.

On February 14, **INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS** will publish personal ads dedicated especially to those you hold dearest to your heart at a discounted rate of **P50** per line or **P180** per column centimeter.

For more information, visit or call any **INQUIRER** branch. Prices are VAT exclusive.

Iane,
There is a love that only you could give, a smile that only your face can show, a twinkle that can be seen only in your eyes and a life of mine that only you can fulfill.
I LOVE YOU!

always,
Red

size: 1 col x 4 cm
cost: P720 VAT exclusive

Happy Heart's Day Liz! You're God's greatest blessing – Tim

size: 3 lines
cost: P150 VAT exclu-

I love you Regin! Loving you is one of the best things I've ever done in my life. Happy Valentine's Day! – Mikaela

size: 4 lines
cost: P200 VAT exclusive

MAKATI (MAIN):
PASONG TAMO AVE., COR. YAGUE & MASCARDO STS. MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8808 loc. 514, 516
☎ 8972535 (Direct)
897-4808
main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

MAKATI BRANCH:
G/F, ATRIUM OF MAKATI, MAKATI AVE., MAKATI CITY
☎ 811-4370, 811-4361
892-5578
makati_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

QUEZON CITY:
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., Q.C.
☎ 912-9008 to 10
912-9011
cubao_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

MANILA:
G/F TRINITY BLDG., T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 527-3342, 528-0183, 528-0186
528-0234
intra_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

MANDALUYONG:
SM MEGAMALL, 5TH LEVEL BUILDING B, EDSA
☎ 635-0219, 637-2008
635-0220
sm_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

ALABANG:
ALABANG DESKTOP EXPRESS
MAKATI SUPERMART-ALABANG
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 850-6465

OBITUARIES

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Our Dearly Beloved Mommy

JUANITA MARIANO RAYOS DEL SOL

Peacefully joined our Creator on January 27, 2002 at the age of 81 and now rests in the Infinite Grace and Goodness of our Lord.

Her late husband **TRINING** (†); loving children and in-laws **Lorna**, **Oscar**, **Pearl** and **Bobby Catahan**, **Doris** and **Jun Pagsisihan**, **Edna** and **Ririt Roxas**; grandchildren **Robert Paulo Catahan** (†), **Christiane** and **Micah Pagsisihan**, **Mara** and **Phoebe Roxas**; sisters **Severina Ordoñez** and **Primitiva Cervo**; brothers-in-law **Marcelino Rayos del Sol** and **Moises Cervo**; relatives and friends, request all those whose lives were touched by her to continue living their lives in the Way of the Lord.

Her body lies in state at Chapel 7 of the Garden of Memories Memorial Chapels, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 2, 2002 at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park, Calzadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila after the 9:00 a.m. Funeral Service.

Lovingly Remembering

JOSE C. CRISOSTOMO

on his **Sixth Death Anniversary**, 30 January 2002

Holy Masses will be offered and may we request relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers.

Thank you.
Slony and Family

RAFAEL TOPACIO-CASAS

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on January 26, 2002 at the age of 47.

His bereaved wife **Cora**; children **Ralph**, **Aljo**, **Baby Girl** & **Raji**; his mother **Gloria**; brothers and sisters request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Solace 1 Chapel, Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 30, 2002 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 2:00 p.m. service at UST Chapel, in España.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE
897-8808 loc. 514, 516
899-4425
897-2535
897-8425 (Telefax)

CUBAO
912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)

MAKATI
892-5578
811-4361
811-4370

KALAW
528-0213
527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219
635-0220

THOMAS JOSEPH MEEHAN

has serenely joined the Lord in His Kingdom on January 27, 2002 at the age of 77.

His bereaved wife **Lolita**; nieces **Malou** & **Ivy**; nephew **Charlo**; grandchildren **Jackielou** and **Gloria**; in-laws and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

A gathering of relatives and friends has been arranged on Sunday, February 3, 2002 at Meehan's residence in 2195 Leveriza Street, Pasay City followed by a Mass at 3:00 PM.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN •

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8600 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0765) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346 2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City; Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City;
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3805; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2059; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011
Tels. (044) 764-0281, 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
146 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675

GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1296, 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136, (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City; Tels. 749-3806 to 11
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98; 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855, 682-0209, 682-0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City; Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529, 522-8763, (0919) 348-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
254 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867, 714-0868
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30, Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-16 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila; Tels. 749-3679, 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084, 410-9286/87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-3797, 844 7846, 843-1801, 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438; 400-5394

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

AmCham proposes ceiling on 'entertainment' tax

THE AMERICAN Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (AmCham) has proposed for the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to provide a ceiling on the deductability of entertainment, amusement, and recreation expenses for purposes of deduction from gross income.

Section 34(A)(1)(a)(IV) of the Tax Code of 1997 allows deduction from gross income all ordinary and necessary expenses paid or incurred in the development, management, operation and or conduct of the trade, business or exercise of the profession.

AmCham airs its concern to prevent indiscriminate disallowance of otherwise fully deductible expenses and avoid confusion as to what expenses fall under the entertainment category.

In a statement, AmCham disclosed that in the United States, a ceiling of 50 percent is imposed on certain entertainment expenses to prevent what is effectively a tax shield for high-income taxpayers.

In line with the objective behind the imposition of ceiling, AmCham proposes that certain expenses which are not personal in nature and which would not result to a tax advantage to high income earners be excepted from the 50-percent ceiling. These include expenses incurred on business or stockholders meeting of bonafide employees, expenses while attending or sponsoring a business league meeting, expenses for recreational, social and similar activities for the benefit of employees regardless of income level, expenses incurred for events set up for promotion and advertising, expenses incurred for events set up for promotion and advertising, expenses for the enjoyment of the public, expenses for charitable and fund-raising events, board and lodging of business guests flying in from other places, food and beverage that fall under the *de minimis* rule, entertainment expense not exceeding a certain amount, and expenses related to company celebrations such as company anniversary, service/loyalty awards, achievement/milestone awards and other related awards.

According to the AmCham statement, imposing an across-the-board ceiling on all entertainment expenses is not fitting in the light of the global economic slump as it will have a negative impact on local businesses, especially those heavily reliant on representation work to gain and maintain customers like direct marketing and selling, and real estate companies, among others. The beneficiaries of these type of expenses such as restaurants, hotels and recreational joints will likewise suffer, the statement added. AmCham considers entertaining guests at such places as night clubs, country clubs, theaters, sporting events, on yachts, hunting, fishing, vacation and similar trips as activities that generally fall under entertainment, amusement and recreation.

On the other hand, AmCham believes that entertainment should not include the per diem and expenses (lodging, meals, transportation and related expenses) incurred by employees while on official business such as conventions, trainings, and other business-related travel. The Tax Code, AmCham stresses, should likewise exclude expenses paid or incurred by the taxpayer for daily meals and overtime allowances of employees. Also, expenses incurred during company parties, outings, and other celebrations should be excluded from the limitation.

Moreover, AmCham submits that tax ceiling should not be imposed on industries which are heavily reliant on representation work and entertainment as a way of increasing or maintaining client base. These include professionals in the exercise of the profession, real estate (including clubs and enterprises) offering recreation and businesses that offer outsourcing and consulting services.

AIC REALTY, H. FENDWICK SIGN CONTRACT

AIC Realty Corp., owner and developer of the AIC Empire Tower, recently awarded the architectural finishing of the project through a contract signing with H. Fendwick Inc. Seated (from left) is AIC Realty vice president Bernardo P. Marquez with AIC president Paterno M. Abellera, H. Fendwick Inc. board chair and president Francisco Santamaria, and H. Fendwick executive vice president Rosemarie Basa. Looking on are AIC marketing head Wendy Afuan and H. Fendwick construction manager engineer Pilar Bayani. Basa is currently president of the Creba Social Housing Foundation.

U.P Open University admits students for undergraduate program

UNDERGRADUATE students who want to continue their college education but cannot attend regular classes can now get the college degree they dream of through the distance education program of the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU).

UPOU offers the undergraduate degree program Associate in Arts (AA). It is composed of 72 units of general education courses, all delivered by distance mode. The program is expected to broaden the students' intellectual and cultural horizons; foster a commitment of nationalism balanced by a sense of internationalism; cultivate the capacity for independent, critical and creative thinking; infuse a passion for learning with a high sense of moral and intellectual integrity; develop self-motivated independent learning skills; and inculcate a generalist type of basic tertiary education that also equips students with skills and competencies on computer use.

To qualify for admission into the program, an applicant must be at least 20 years old in June, a high school graduate or had passed the Philippine Educational Placement Test (PEPT), and should pass the Undergraduate Assessment Test (UgAT) – an examination designed to assess the student's scholastic aptitude and capability to undertake independent learning. Those who previously passed the UP College Admission Test are exempted from taking UgAT.

UPOU will accept applications to the program until Feb 15. For more information, call the Office of the University Registrar, UP Open University, Los Baños, Laguna at (049) 536-6001 to 06, or e-mail upou_reg@laguna.net. Interested students may also visit www.upou.org, where application and recommendation forms can be downloaded.

PMA INDUCTION CEREMONIES

The Philippine Marketing Association held its 48th induction ceremonies of its new officers and members for 2002 under the theme 'Act, Don't Retreat! Marketing: the Final Answer.' The Philippine Daily Inquirer was inducted as one of its new members with Fernando Zobel de Ayala, chair of Ayala Land Inc., as inducting officer. Shown are (from left), Inquirer SVP for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso; Inquirer classifieds division head and marketing services manager Donald Lim; Zobel de Ayala; PMA president Ma. Victoria Anonuevo; PMA officers Erly de Guzman and Ruby Ramores.

WELCOME
AWARDEES AND GUESTS

ALAY LAKAD AWARDED

Alay Lakad Foundation Inc. is the recipient of the Gawad Oscar M. Florendo for outstanding public information campaign by a non-government organization. Receiving the trophy is Alay Lakad president Frank Evaristo (center). Also shown are (from left) Jose Pavia (DPI), Gen. Melchor Rosales (PROP chair), Undersecretary Bobby Capco (OPS), Arnold Romero (Alay Lakad executive director), Gen. Honesto Isleta (PRSP) and Gen. Jaime Canatoy (PROP).

Vietnam confers highest honors to industrialist for building, support

FOR HIS valuable contributions to the construction of the new Vietnam Embassy building in Manila, industrialist Lucio C. Tan received a Diploma of Merit from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Considered as one of the highest honors conferred by Vietnam on foreign nationals, the diploma was issued upon the recommendation of Vietnam's Council for Emulation and Merit. Pursuant to Decision No. 2151 signed by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien, the Diploma of Merit was handed to Tan by Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Thac Dinh Jan. 17.

In his brief message, Ambassador Nguyen expressed the Vietnamese government's gratitude to Tan not only for helping in the construction of the new embassy building but also for supporting Vietnam's diplomatic mission in the Philippines.

"Since I arrived in Manila in February 1997, Dr. Tan has been very supportive. Even our President – during his state visit here in November last year--was impressed with our new building. This Diploma of Merit, therefore, is our humble way of expressing our sincere gratitude to Dr. Tan and the Lucio Tan Group of Companies," Ambassador Nguyen said.

In response, Tan said he is both honored and humbled to receive the award. "I shall treasure this Diploma as a memento of our friendship," he added.

Citing an old Vietnamese proverb that "a good beginning is half the battle," Tan said the construction of Vietnam's new embassy building is but the start of greater challenges that lie ahead for Vietnam's mission in the Philippines. "If we are to move closer to our common goals of prosperity and a better life for the people of our countries, neighbors like the Philippines and Vietnam must cooperate and work closer together," he stressed.

Held at the social hall of Vietnam's new embassy building along P. Ocampo Street (formerly Vito Cruz) in Malate, Manila, the awarding rites was witnessed by Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin, ranking officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs, members of Tan's family and guests which include a delegation from the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc.

SHA
T W A R
NTENT

SOFTWARE PARTNERSHIP

Marshal Software, a technology leader in the Internet Content Security (ICS) market, and B&D Consulting and Business Solutions recently inked a partnership agreement where B&D will be the exclusive distributor of MailMarshal and WebMarshal softwares in the Philippines. MailMarshal is an e-mail filter that can block or reduce threats such as viruses, confidential data loss, pornography and many others. WebMarshal is an Internet access control product that limits employee website access to productive, business-related content. Shown is Marshal Software business development manager Stephen Tye (left) shaking hands with B&D Consulting and Business Solutions president Buddy Bartido.

COCOPLANS CAVITE INAUGURATES

Cocoplans, the pre-need company of the UCPB financial services group, recently opened a branch in Cavite. The opening of the branch is in line with the company's expansion thrust, bringing the total number of branches to 33. Shown are Cocoplans top officials Caesar T. Michelena, senior vice president and general manager (left) and Dario B. Martinez, first vice president, cutting the ribbon during the blessing and inauguration. They were joined by other officers and sales associates from South Tagalog III division. The Cavite branch is located at the ground floor of Veluz Building, Aguinaldo Highway, Dasmariñas.

BITS Clips

SWI to re-air program

DUE TO some unavoidable technical problems, IBC 13 and Slimmers World International would like to apologize to all the viewers of "Mr & Ms Great Bodies 2001" last Saturday, Jan. 26. IBC 13 and SWI assure the public that they are doing everything to fix the problems. "Mr & Ms Great Bodies 2001" will be re-aired before the week ends. The exact date and time shall be announced.

Santo Niño fiesta underway

THE SANTO NIÑO Fiesta 2002 is now being held until Feb. 3 at the Philippine National Bank, Finance Center on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Highlights of the event are an exhibit of various Santo Niño images and a grand procession of 500 carrozas, which will start at 2 p.m. of Feb. 3 from Philtrade, and ends at the Luneta Grandstand. Those interested to join may call the Congregacion office, Pope Pius XII Center at 525-9126, Nolie Hans at 523-5102 or 525-4773, or Ben Farrales at 525-3421. This year's event is in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, the City of Manila, PNB, and the Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus.

3-D puzzles from pretzels

YOUR favorite cartoon genius, Dexter, poses a challenge to test the creativity of every smart and fun-loving kid who goes for the delicious, chocolatey crunchiness of Jack 'n Jill Pretzels. Until Jan. 31, every 40g and 70g box of Jack 'n Jill Pretzels comes with a free Dexter puzzle piece. There are over 600 puzzle designs to collect and connect, including the Dexter, Dee Dee, their mom and dad and Mandark characters. Start looking for 20 puzzle pieces that match to form a portrait of Dexter's family. The bigger task is putting together the puzzle pieces to build 3-D toys and gadgets such as jets, castles, robots, and pencil holders, or whatever your mind can imagine.

COCA-COLA VISITOR NO. 3,000,000

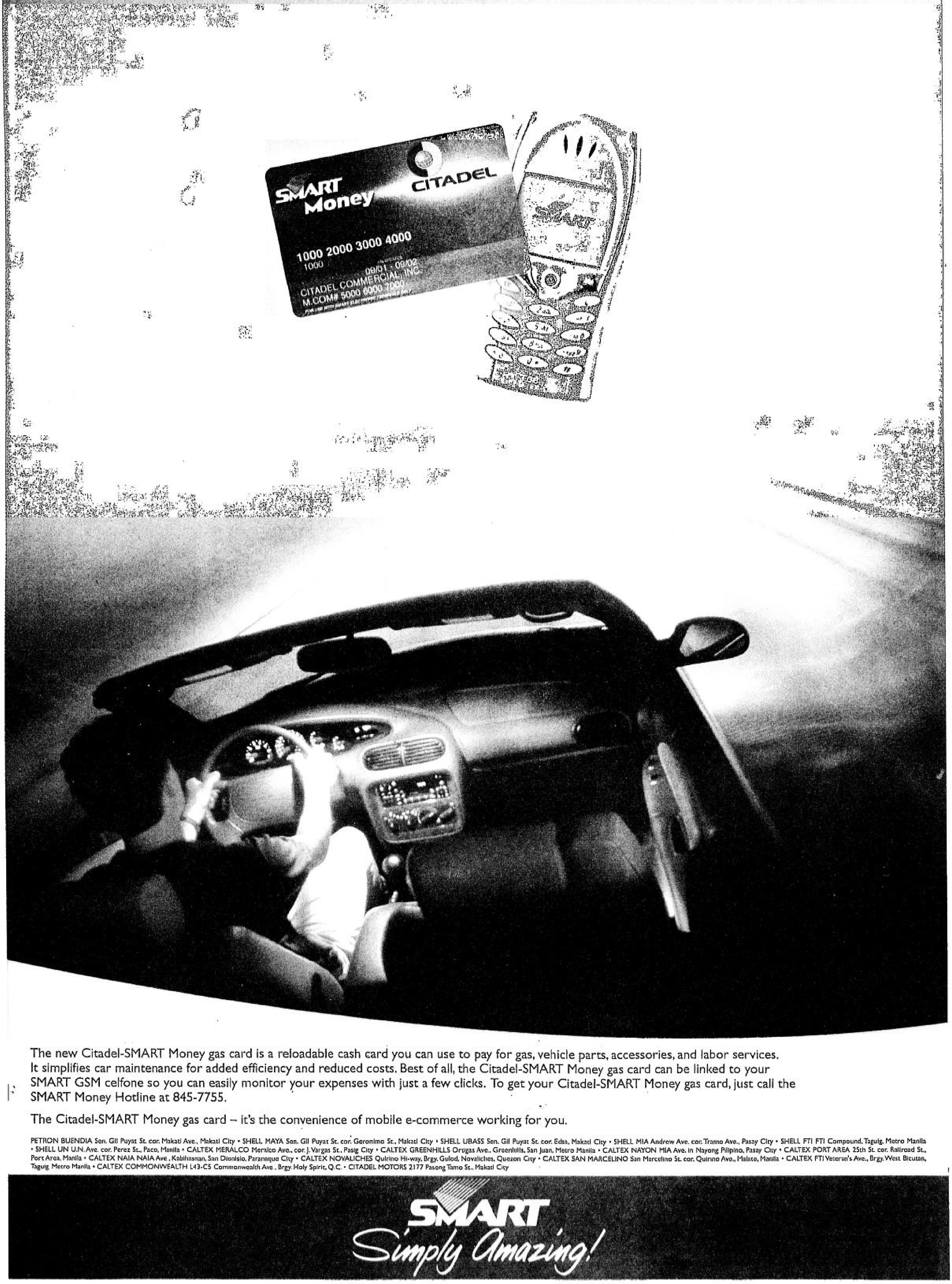
Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) external affairs coordinator Dennis Bejasa (left) hands out premium Coca-Cola items to grade 2 student Alvin Ubag of Tinkerbell School for being the 3-millionth visitor of Coca-Cola. A visit to any Coca-Cola plant from Luzon to Mindanao is what educational field trips are all about, a venue where guests, kids and adults alike learn in an atmosphere of fun and excitement. Also shown are Alvin's aunt and his teacher (right).

RP hosts SEA photo event

AMATEUR and professional photographers can attend Photoworld Manila 2002, the biggest photography event in Southeast Asia, which will be held from Jan. 31 to Feb. 4 at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City. PWM 2002 presents world-class photography programs to keep participants in step with technology. This year's theme is "Photography at Work." The schedule of remaining seminar-workshops are: on Jan. 29, "Shooting the Cosmo Girl", "Child Photography", "Eye-Popping Advertising Shots Without Popping Your Budget", and "Photo Captioning Without Darkroom Work"; Jan. 30, a hands-on workshop conducted by Louise and Joseph Simone; Jan. 31, a hands-on workshop celebrating the female form.

The New
CITADEL-SMART MONEY
Gas Card

You'll Never Run Empty Again!



The new Citadel-SMART Money gas card is a reloadable cash card you can use to pay for gas, vehicle parts, accessories, and labor services. It simplifies car maintenance for added efficiency and reduced costs. Best of all, the Citadel-SMART Money gas card can be linked to your SMART GSM celfone so you can easily monitor your expenses with just a few clicks. To get your Citadel-SMART Money gas card, just call the SMART Money Hotline at 845-7755.

The Citadel-SMART Money gas card – it's the convenience of mobile e-commerce working for you.

PETRON BUENDIA Sen. Gil Puyat St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City • SHELL MAYA Sen. Gil Puyat St. cor. Geronimo St., Makati City • SHELL UBASS Sen. Gil Puyat St. cor. Edsa, Makati City • SHELL MIA Andrew Ave. cor. Tramo Ave., Pasay City • SHELL FTI FTI Compound, Taguig, Metro Manila • SHELL UN U.N. Ave. cor. Perez St., Paco, Manila • CALTEX MERALCO Meralco Ave., cor. J. Vargas St., Pasig City • CALTEX GREENHILLS Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila • CALTEX NAYON MIA Ave. in Nayong Pilipino, Pasay City • CALTEX PORT AREA 25th St. cor. Railroad St., Port Area, Manila • CALTEX NAIA NAIA Ave., Kabihasnan, San Dionisio, Paranaque City • CALTEX NOVALICHES Quirino Hi-way, Brgy. Gulod, Novaliches, Quezon City • CALTEX SAN MARCELINO San Marcelino St. cor. Quirino Ave., Malate, Manila • CALTEX FTI Veteran's Ave., Brgy. West Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila • CALTEX COMMONWEALTH L43-C5 Commonwealth Ave., Brgy. Holy Spirit, Q.C. • CITADEL MOTORS 2177 Pasong Tamo St., Makati City

SMART
Simply Amazing!

For feedback, text us at (0919)661-2337 or email us at lifestyle@inq7.net

LIFESTYLE fitness

Chelo Banal-Formoso, Editor

A fair to remember, if you're a fitness buff

Look-good and feel-good products and services will be the focus of the first-ever fitness expo

By Constantino C. Tejero

DESPITE the retrenchments going on and companies closing shop, one industry seems to only keep expanding.

The trend in business now would seem to be the health, beauty and fitness industry. With all these related international companies coming in, one wryly observes Filipinos would want to stay looking beautiful and fit despite an empty stomach or pocket.

"I saw a big market in this one, so I conceptualized this event," says Annaliza Bacani Laxamana, managing director of The Next Step Events Planner.

She is referring to the 1st Health, Beauty & Fitness Expo, to be held Feb. 27 to March 1 at The Enterprise Center, Makati City.

Titled "Rediscover... Look Good and Feel Good," the expo will showcase facial and skin-care products, health and food supplements, fitness equipment and accessories, beauty products, health and services, fitness center, spa and other product lines and services.

Next Step started organizing in November, targeting 30 exhibitors. Laxamana aims this to be the first of its kind in the country.

There had been fitness fairs before, but those were marketing specific products such as herbals. The forthcoming one is varied, including even machinery, equipment and services.

Invited to join the event are fitness club owners and managers, spa owners, health club sales and marketing personnel, personal trainers, physical therapists, nutrition advisors, corporate fitness staff, sports coaches and trainers, health and fitness enthusiasts.

Event highlights

"The trend in marketing strategies now is events marketing," observes Laxamana. "Companies are going directly to clients instead of doing it, like, running ads on TV."

The fair offers opportunities to meet new customers, renew contracts with old customers, introduce new products and services, maintain visibility and market exposure.

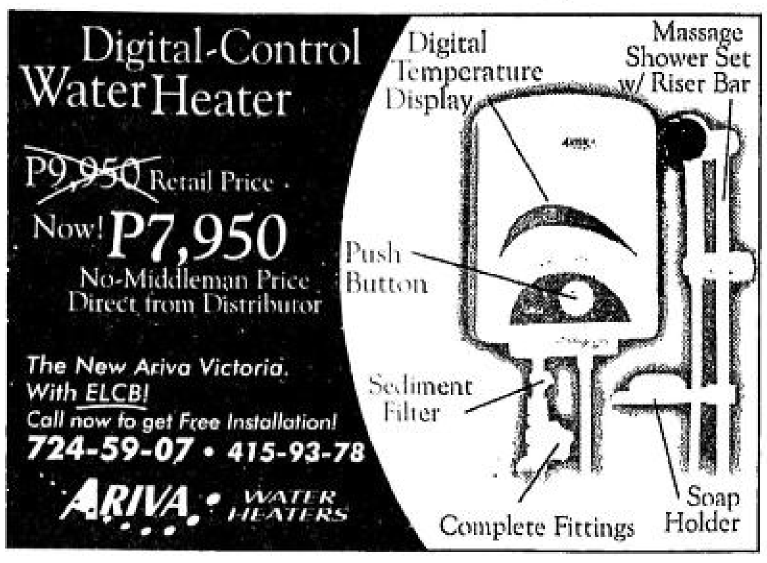
Event highlights include exhibits, seminars, competitions, product presentations.

There will be a seminar on aroma candle-making, to be conducted by Prof. Lourdes Punzalan, a trainer from the Department of Agriculture. Participation fee is P1,500.

This will be followed by a two-day seminar, workshop and lectures on reflexology and acupressure by the Department of Health. Dr. Ronnie Royo, a DOH alternative-medium practitioner, will conduct the activities in cooperation with the Scientific Natural Therapy Association of the Phils. Participation fee is P2,500.

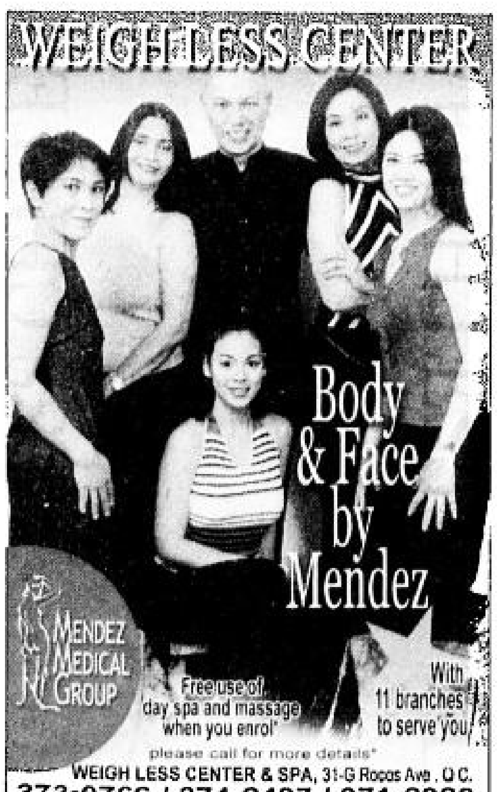
Finally, for two afternoons, there will be a four-hour makeup/makeover demo by Cosmopolitan Magazine.

The economy in this country can go hang. Even the poorest of the poor would want to look good.


Digital-Control Water Heater
~~P9,950~~ Retail Price
Now! P7,950
No-Middleman Price Direct from Distributor
The New Ariva Victoria. With ELCB!
Call now to get Free Installation!
724-59-07 • 415-93-78
ARIVA WATER HEATERS

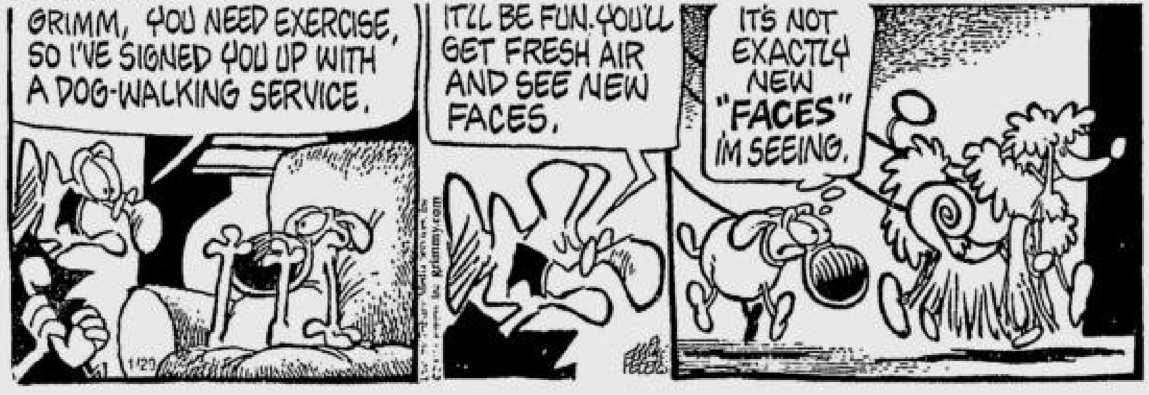
Happenings at the Carousel
Come visit The Art of living
a furniture fair filled with the latest designs, the hottest finds and the greatest deals! Plus, get great tips on home decorations, floral arrangements and so much more!
• Cadi • Citibeds • Majeid's Carpets • House of Precast • Substance Home Store
• Lyric Piano • Yasmir Craft • JB Wood Craft • Zapanta Decor • Hannah Classica
• Tri-World Piano Center • The Best of Persian Carpets •
Together with the exhibitors of HOME Bazaar
Jan. 15 -31 at the Carousel Court
Call Customer Service at 850-3514
www.festivalsupermall.com
FESTIVAL SUPERMALL FILINVEST-ALABANG

Sus, duet pa sila!
UBO! UBO! UBO!
UBO! UBO! UBO!
MAKATI
Nakakahiyang UBO?
TAPOS YAN SA
Guaifenesin
Benadryl® EXP
Clinical studies show that sa Benadryl, tunaw ang matigas at makapit na plema, para madaling ilabas.
Sa Benadryl, tapos ang nakakahiyang ubo !
Pfizer PFIZER made it!
Consumer Healthcare Division
Trademark of Parke-Davis, a Pfizer Company
Also available:
Diphenhydramine Hcl
Benadryl®
For coughs due to allergies, colds or flu


WEIGH LESS CENTER
Body & Face by Mendez
Mendez Medical Group
Free use of day spa and massage when you enrol*
With 11 branches to serve you!
please call for more details*
WEIGH LESS CENTER & SPA, 31-G Roces Ave., Q.C.
373•0766 / 374•2437 / 371•8886
371•8887 / 373•3365 / 373•3366
ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT*

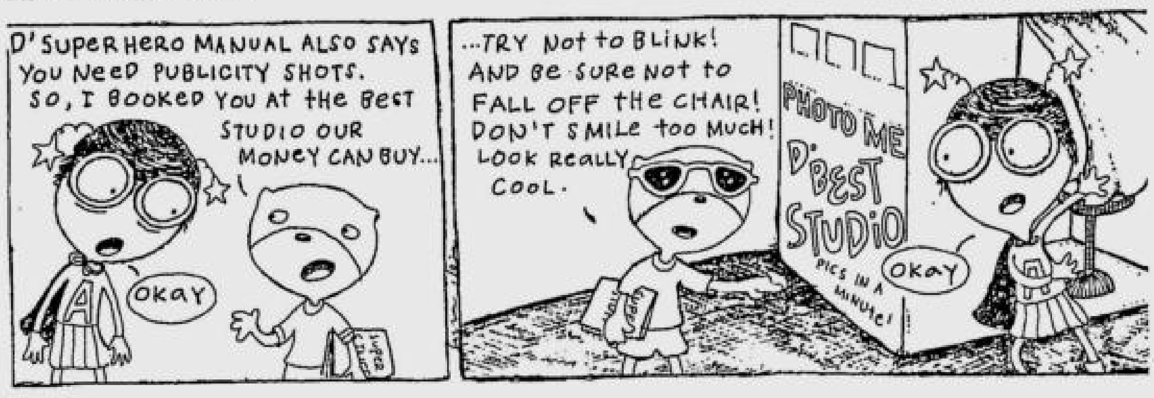
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, YOU NEED EXERCISE, SO I'VE SIGNED YOU UP WITH A DOG-WALKING SERVICE.
IT'LL BE FUN. YOU'LL GET FRESH AIR AND SEE NEW FACES.
IT'S NOT EXACTLY NEW "FACES" I'M SEEING.
1/29

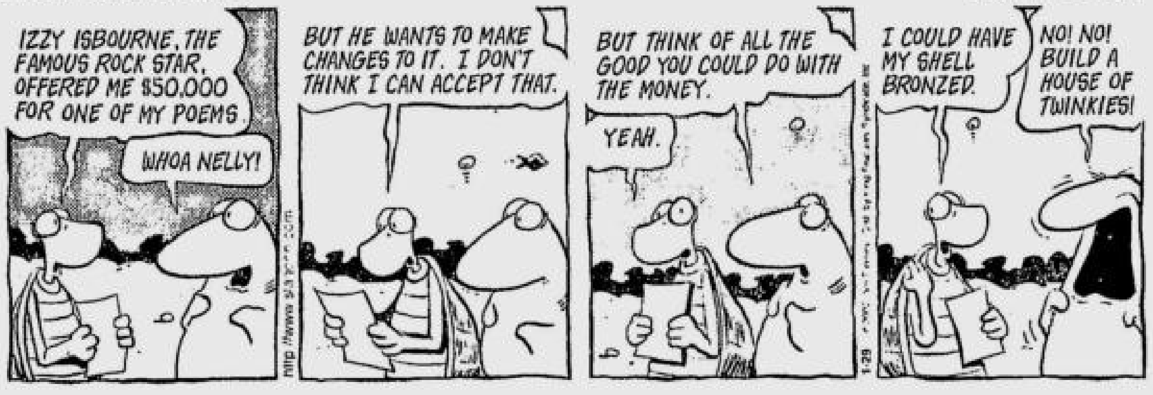
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


D' SUPER HERO MANUAL ALSO SAYS YOU NEED PUBLICITY SHOTS. SO, I BOOKED YOU AT THE BEST STUDIO OUR MONEY CAN BUY...
OKAY
...TRY NOT TO BLINK! AND BE SURE NOT TO FALL OFF THE CHAIR! DON'T SMILE TOO MUCH! LOOK REALLY COOL.
PHOTO ME D' BEST STUDIO
PICS IN A MINUTE!
OKAY

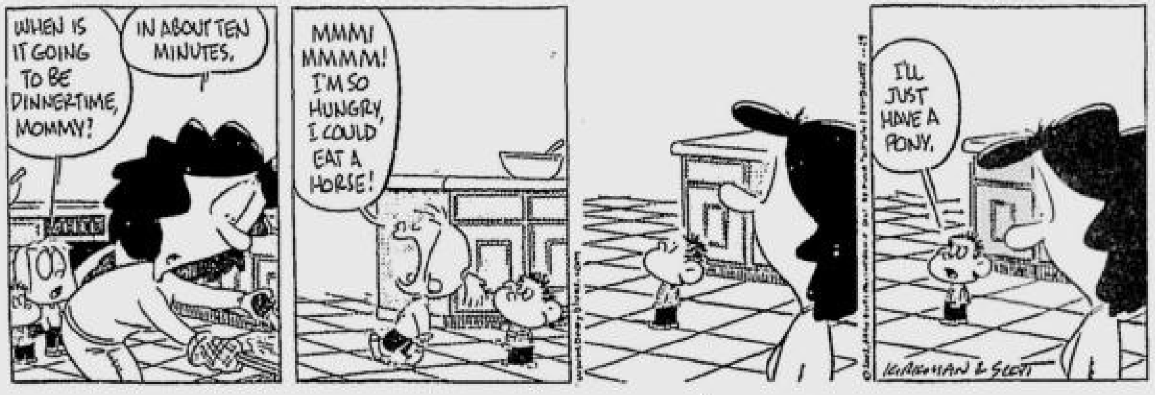
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


IZZY ISBOURNE, THE FAMOUS ROCK STAR, OFFERED ME $50,000 FOR ONE OF MY POEMS.
WHOA NELLY!
BUT HE WANTS TO MAKE CHANGES TO IT. I DON'T THINK I CAN ACCEPT THAT.
BUT THINK OF ALL THE GOOD YOU COULD DO WITH THE MONEY.
YEAH.
I COULD HAVE MY SHELL BRONZED.
NO! NO! BUILD A HOUSE OF TWINKIES!
1-29

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHEN IS IT GOING TO BE DINNERTIME, MOMMY?
IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES.
MMM! MMMM! I'M SO HUNGRY, I COULD EAT A HORSE!
I'LL JUST HAVE A PONY.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sara Gilbert, Tom Selleck, Oprah Winfrey

Happy Birthday: Put your house in order and prepare for any events that may take place in your home this year. You will take a strong position in family matters and your intent will be to improve your domestic environment. Redecorating and renovating will turn out surprisingly well this year. Your numbers are 9, 15, 19, 22, 28, 31

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be creative and do something that will make you feel good about yourself and your abilities. Self-improvement projects will be successful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may find it difficult to deal with emotional issues if you don't take a moment to absorb everything that is happening around you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your willingness to do something nice for someone else will help you gain the respect and acknowledgment that you deserve.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will have to learn when to say no. Stop and set your own priorities. You must take care of your own needs before you decide to help others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't get all wound-up because not everyone wants to do things your way. You should only be concerned with the job you do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do what you do best and don't let anyone take advantage of your ability to get things done. You are already doing quite enough .

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You have so much to offer and plenty to gain from the organizations that you are involved in. You will be well thought of if you contribute to a worthy cause.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you allow yourself to become jealous it may have an adverse affect on a special relationship. It is best to be observant today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The more you can pack into the day the better. Travel, adventure and pursuing knowledge should all be on your agenda.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's time to count your money. You can make financial gains through behind-the-scenes activities, small business ventures or conservative investments.

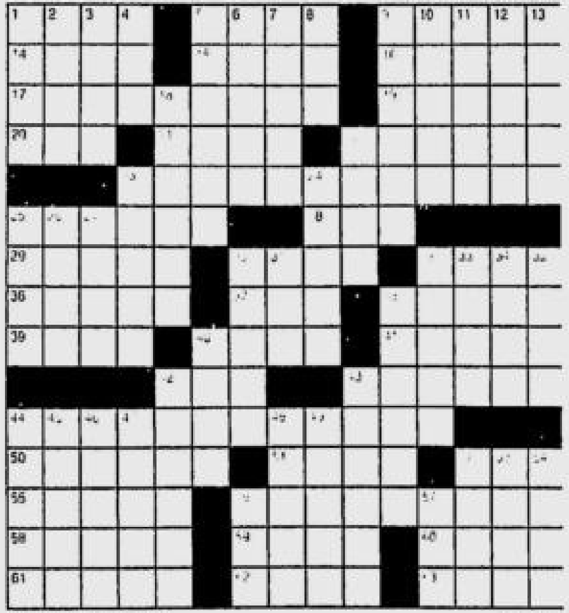
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You must stand up for yourself and your rights. You have a good handle on what you want to do so don't let anyone try to talk you into doing things his or her way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's time to finish some of the projects you have left dangling. Put in an honest effort and you will feel better at the end of the day.

Birthday Baby: You are diligent and organized right down to the last detail. You can be critical of the ones you love, wanting those close to you to be as perfect as everything else in your life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

12/13/0'

ACROSS
1 Moves up and down
5 Deep voice
9 Records
14 Up to the task
15 Dismounted
16 Last Greek letter
17 Start of a quip
19 Lion's plaints
20 Bishopric
21 Hoofbeat
22 Property delineations
23 Part 2 of quip
25 Dot
28 Mind-reading letters
29 Isolated
30 Trade center
32 Crimson Tide, to fans
36 Bathed
37 Part 3 of quip
38 Dravidian tongue
39 Change for a five
40 General McAuliffe's answer
41 Serengeti carnivore
42 Help
43 Discredits unjustly
44 Part 4 of quip
50 Twangy sounds
51 Extra-wide shoe size
52 Disparity
55 Booster rocket
56 End of quip
58 Bubbly
59 Crushing blow
60 Neck and neck
61 Three-spots
62 War god
63 Kinski title role

DOWN
1 Prolonged barks
2 Bassoon's kin
3 Crestfallen
4 Put in position
5 Narrative song
6 Parcel out
7 Fools
8 Fr. holy woman
9 Ripped
10 In the company of
11 Humdinger
12 Wading bird
13 Fresh
18 Resounded
22 Speedy
23 Port and hock
24 Computer geeks
25 __ Alto, CA
26 Panache
27 Wander aimlessly
30 Bea Arthur sitcom
31 Pismire
32 Ronstadt hit, "Blue __"
33 Prayer conclusion
34 Merciless villain
35 __ and alack!
38 Condition of agonizing struggle
40 Young lice
42 Sets to rest
43 N.C. and Andrew
44 Not suitable
45 Take the odds
46 Rhone tributary
47 Long and lean
48 "The Merry Widow" composer
49 Purchase alternative
52 Play
53 Highest poker pair
54 Holding areas
56 Pugilists' grp.
57 Bottom-line figure

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

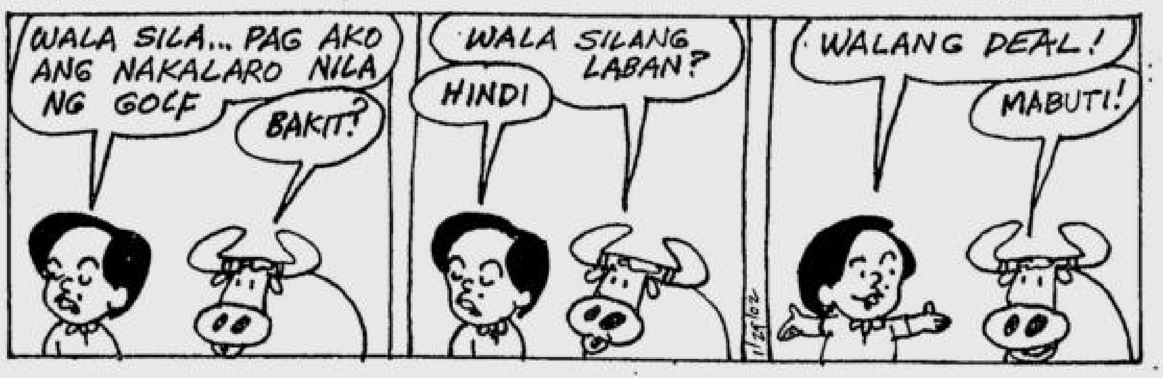
P	U	C	K	■	S	H	O	R	N	■	A	M	I	N
O	B	O	E	■	M	E	L	E	E	■	R	E	D	O
L	O	N	G	F	E	L	L	O	W	■	I	L	L	S
L	A	C	■	E	L	I	A	■	W	E	S	L	E	Y
O	T	H	E	L	L	O	■	P	O	R	T	O	■	■
■	■	■	R	O	Y	■	N	A	R	R	O	W	E	D
F	L	Y	N	N	■	B	E	L	L	S	■	I	T	E
L	E	E	S	■	U	R	G	E	D	■	S	N	U	B
O	I	L	■	G	N	A	R	S	■	L	E	G	I	T
P	A	L	O	A	L	T	O	■	H	E	R	■	■	■
■	■	O	L	I	O	S	■	N	O	V	E	L	T	Y
S	O	W	E	T	O	■	H	O	M	E	■	I	R	A
A	L	F	A	■	S	A	U	L	B	E	L	L	O	W
M	E	I	R	■	E	G	G	A	R	■	E	T	O	N
S	O	N	Y	■	S	A	O	N	E	■	T	S	P	S

(C)2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved.

12/13/0

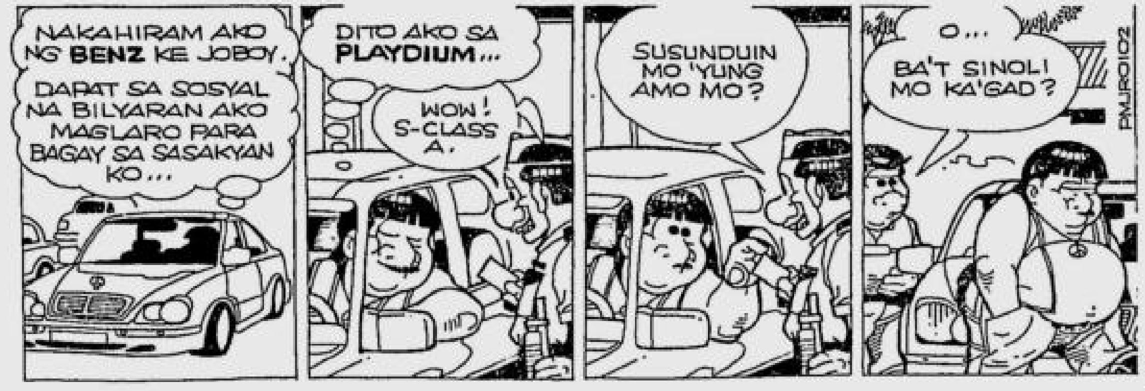
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WALA SILA... PAG AKO ANG NAKALARO NILA NG GOLF
BAKIT?
WALA SILANG LABAN?
HINDI
WALANG DEAL!
MABUTI!
1/29/02

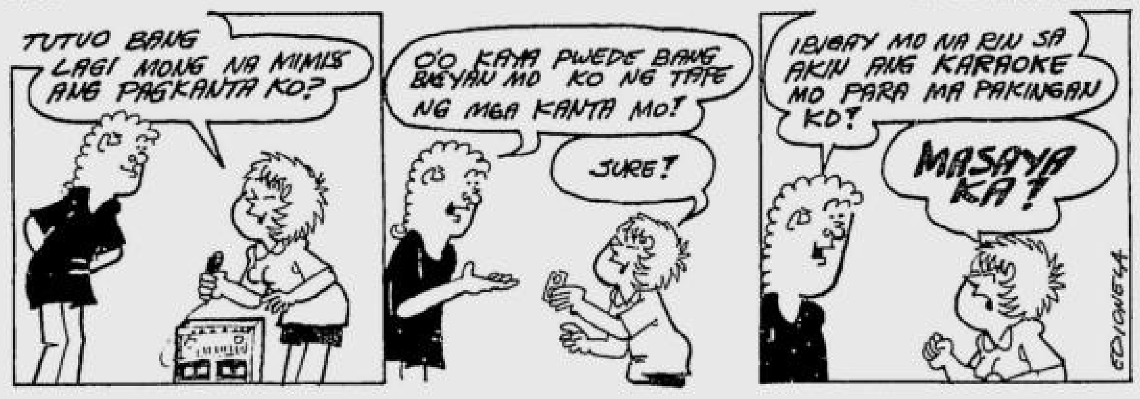
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAKAHIRAM AKO NG BENZ KE JOBOY.
DAPAT SA SOSYAL NA BILYARAN AKO MAGLARO PARA BAGAY SA SASAKYAN KO...
DITO AKO SA PLAYDIUM...
WOW! S-CLASS A.
SUSUNDUIN MO 'YUNG AMO MO?
O...
BA'T SINOLI MO KA'GAD?
PMJR0102

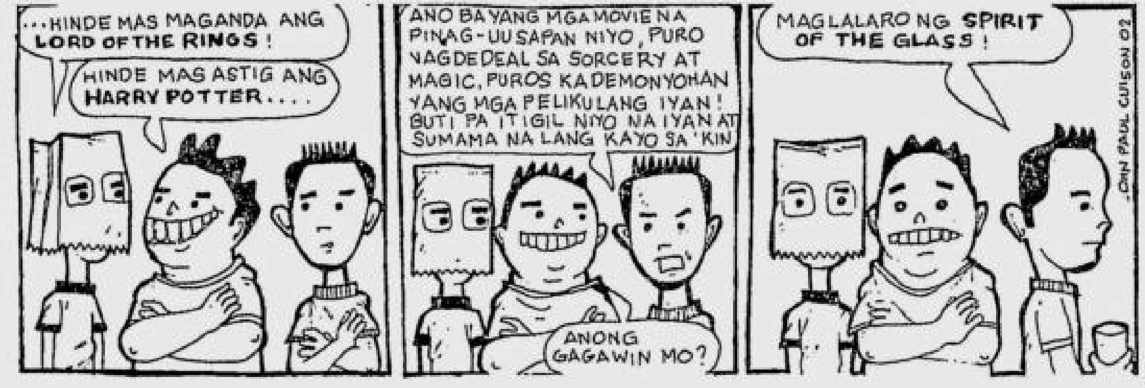
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


TUTUO BANG LAGI MONG NA MIMIS ANG PAGKANTA KO?
O'O KAYA PWEDE BANG BIGYAN MO KO NG TAPE NG MGA KANTA MO!
SURE!
IBIGAY MO NA RIN SA AKIN ANG KARAOKE MO PARA MA PAKINGAN KO!
MASAYA KA!
DIONELA

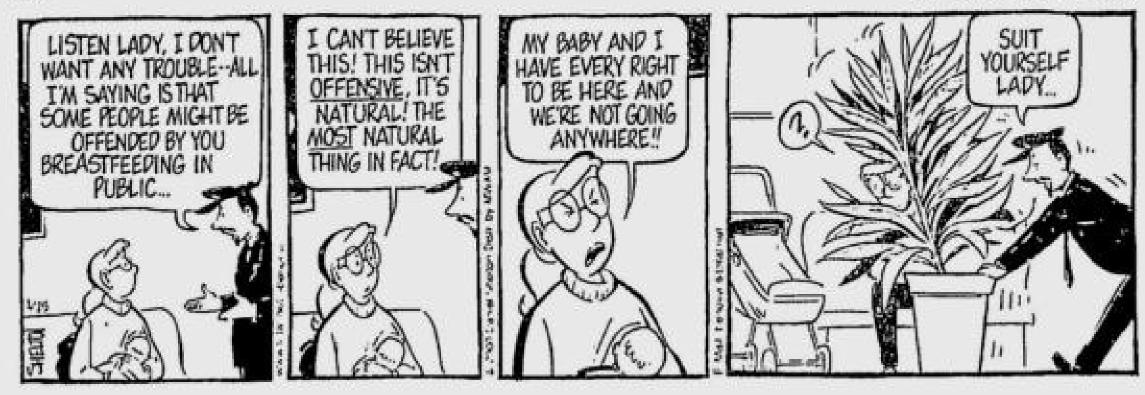
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


...HINDE MAS MAGANDA ANG LORD OF THE RINGS!
HINDE MAS ASTIG ANG HARRY POTTER....
ANO BA YANG MGA MOVIE NA PINAG-UUSAPAN NIYO, PURO NAGDEDEAL SA SORCERY AT MAGIC, PUROS KADEMONYOHAN YANG MGA PELIKULANG IYAN! BUTI PA ITIGIL NIYO NA IYAN AT SUMAMA NA LANG KAYO SA 'KIN
ANONG GAGAWIN MO?
MAGLALARO NG SPIRIT OF THE GLASS!
JOHN PAUL CUISON 02

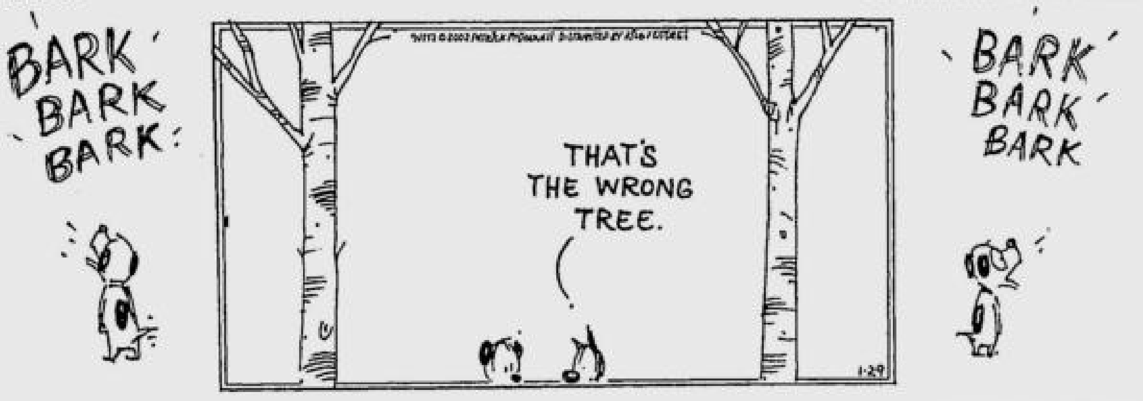
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LISTEN LADY, I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE--ALL I'M SAYING IS THAT SOME PEOPLE MIGHT BE OFFENDED BY YOU BREASTFEEDING IN PUBLIC...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! THIS ISN'T OFFENSIVE, IT'S NATURAL! THE MOST NATURAL THING IN FACT!
MY BABY AND I HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE HERE AND WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!!
?
SUIT YOURSELF LADY...
SHELTON

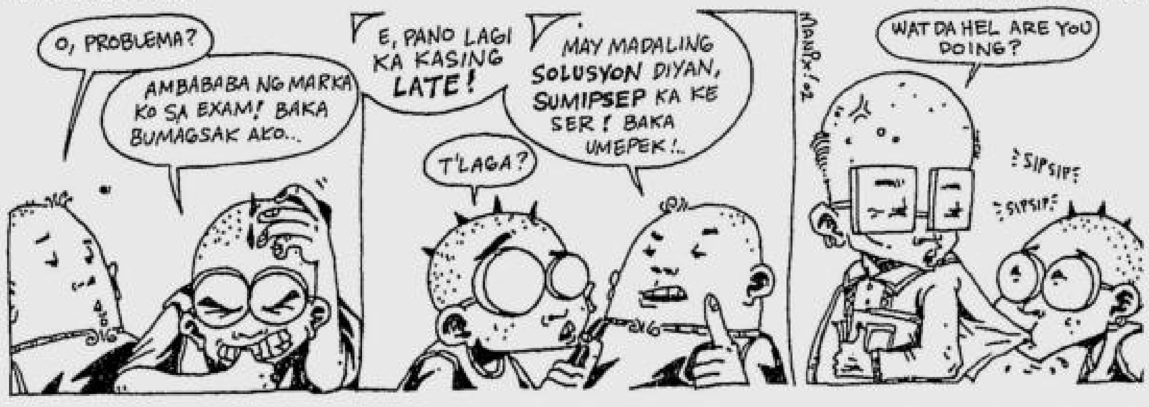
MUTTS

BY PATRICK MCDONNELL


BARK BARK BARK
THAT'S THE WRONG TREE.
BARK BARK BARK
1-29

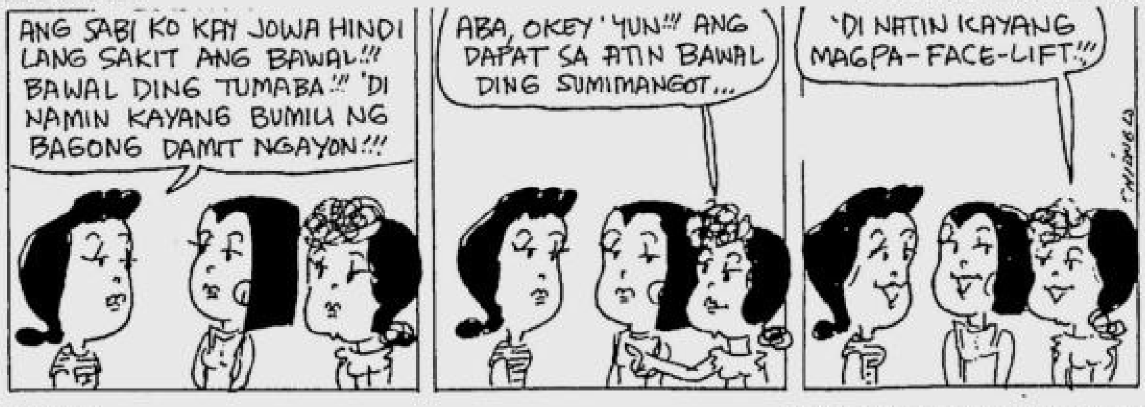
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O, PROBLEMA?
AMBABABA NG MARKA KO SA EXAM! BAKA BUMAGSAK AKO..
E, PANO LAGI KA KASING LATE!
T'LAGA?
MAY MADALING SOLUSYON DIYAN, SUMIPSEP KA KE SER! BAKA UMEPEK!..
MANIX '02
WAT DA HEL ARE YOU DOING?
SIPSIP!
SIPSIP!

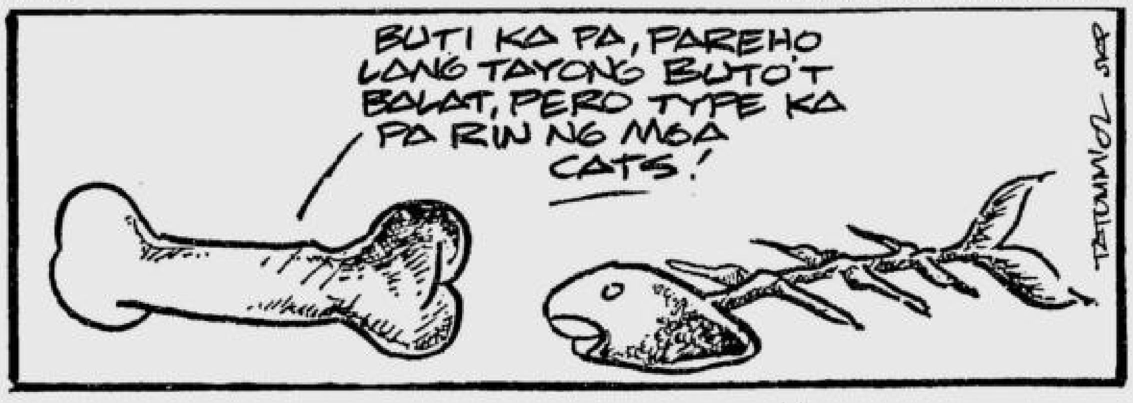
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG SABI KO KAY JOWA HINDI LANG SAKIT ANG BAWAL!!! BAWAL DING TUMABA!!! 'DI NAMIN KAYANG BUMILI NG BAGONG DAMIT NGAYON!!!
ABA, OKEY 'YUN!!! ANG DAPAT SA ATIN BAWAL DING SUMIMANGOT...
'DI NATIN KAYANG MAGPA-FACE-LIFT!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BUTI KA PA, PAREHO LANG TAYONG BUTO'T BALAT, PERO TYPE KA PA RIN NG MGA CATS!
TATUMNOL

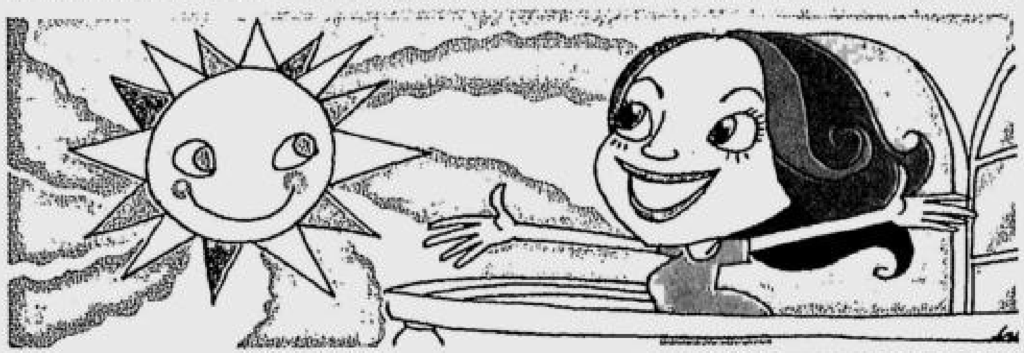


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

A new day

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

WAKING up in the morning can be, for some, a sorry-to-be-alive experience, and yet for others, it simply is a great-to-be-alive beginning. True, you have a choice whether to drag your feet out of bed or to jump out of it. But the point is, you have a choice.

If I were to tell you a secret, do you promise to share it with others? Because this is one secret that needs to be shared. It will spell the difference between happy and sad for you. And for many.

Do you know that there exists inside you a center of unlimited energy? And that, at will, you can tap this center? All you have to do is open the door.

The door, a key

Opening a door is easy if you know what door to open. And if you have the right key. But, of course, this is no ordinary key because it is visible only to your mind's eye. The door is your mind and the key, your openness to unlimited possibilities.

Let there be light

Creation began when there was light. And since time immemorial, the sun has become symbolic of creation's first light and has stood ever since for the symbol of good as opposed to darkness as the universal archetype for evil. Thousands of years ago an ancient warrior composed this powerful prayer to the sun while invoking victory in battle as the sun was rising.

And so, here is an invocation that can apply to our own battles and victories in life.

Ode to the sun

As soon as you first open your eyes:

1. Stand up and face the east. If you have a window facing the rising sun, better.

2. Take a deep breath and with arms outstretched, ready to catch a gift from heaven, say this prayer: "You, oh, God, who are the source of all power, whose rays illuminate the world, illuminate my own heart so it, too, will do Your work."

3. Imagine the sun's rays, penetrating your body and illuminating your entire being as though you are as radiant as the sun.

Invoking the light can only bring wonders into your life beginning today. And speaking of a new day, why not really get into this spirit of newness with matching new skin?

New skin
2 tbsp castor oil
2 pairs of old loose socks

Cut off the toe end of one pair of socks leaving a hole big enough to make a pair of homemade gloves. Pour one tablespoon of castor oil on your feet, rub it in well. Put on your socks. Do the same with your hands. Wear overnight.

Castor oil is one of the cheapest ways to moisturize dry, tough skin. It may be sticky, but the results are guaranteed—softer, younger-looking skin the next day. Of course, it would be better if you exfoliated first with sugar.

Recharge your spirit and renew your skin. What a marvelous start to celebrating a new you!

Love and light to you, dear readers.

E-mail the author at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Visualize what you want realized

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

MAN lives in a multidimensional reality, but because he is so focused on the physical plane, he thinks that's the only reality there is, and orthodox, materialist science has perpetuated this myth.

Let us consider only three planes: the physical, mental and spiritual. What we do not often realize is that before anything comes into physical reality, it must first exist on the mental and spiritual planes. Before a table or chair becomes a physical reality, it must first exist in the mind of the carpenter. Before a figure appears on canvas, it must first exist in the mind of the artist. And before the birds, trees and the stars appear, they must first exist in the mind of God. There is no exception to this rule.

If this is correct, then in order for us to have what we want physically, we must first see it in our minds. We can get practically everything we want by concentrated mental effort and visualization. We can mentally program the things we want in life and they will be so. There is an old saying, "What we visualize, we can realize."

Example

A well-known film and television personality told me 10 years ago how she got her first car by using visualization or mental imagery. Not only would she imagine driving her dream car, a white Nissan California sedan, but she even asked the household help to act out the whole scenario. The actress would ask her to physically open the gates to let the imaginary car in. The maid would dutifully comply with this weird request of her master every day.

The actress had been divorced from her husband, a movie and TV actor himself. After a couple of weeks of this imaginary drama, her estranged husband unexpectedly called and announced to her that he had decided to give her and the children a gift, a white Nissan California sedan. The maid never told the ex-husband about her mistress' greatest dream.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

What the actress did is called mental programming. We can have anything we want by mental programming. But there are certain conditions or requirements that must be satisfied before this happens.

Conditions

First, we must desire the thing we want to program for so strongly that nothing can break or change it. Second, we must believe that the programming method will work once we do it. And third, we must expect the results and act as if what we are programming for has already taken place.

In addition, we must do this visualization for about 15 minutes at least twice a day in the most relaxed level of mind, known technically as the alpha brain wave level. The alpha is a meditative level when we are mentally focused within, when we are physically relaxed and mentally passive and receptive.

All we have to do is sit quietly in a very comfortable position, relax our mind and body and visualize or form an image of what we want to accomplish or to have. We should focus on the results and not on the means to get it. We should see the results clearly in our mind and it should remain the dominant image before we open our eyes to do our regular task.

Visualization, properly and consistently done, works. We have the testimony of countless individuals who have benefited successfully from this powerful and proven technique. The human mind is so powerful an instrument, but it is utterly underutilized. William James, the father of modern psychology, pointed out that the average human being uses only 10 percent of his mental capacity. Can you imagine what we can become should we be able to increase such a percentage by visualization?

Send letters to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

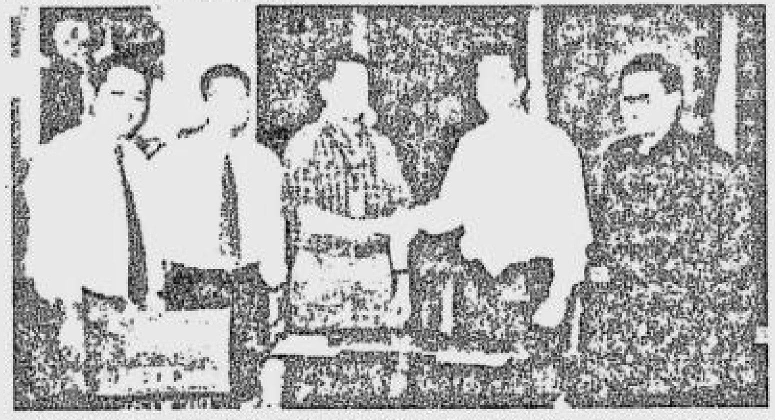
Where can I send e-mail to MEDICard about its medical services?

We believe that one of the most effective means for us to evaluate the delivery of our services to our members is through a feedback system. This way, we get valuable first hand information on how we have rendered our services to you. One of the many ways wherein members can reach us is through **feedback@medicardphils.com.** It is an e-mail address devoted primarily to your suggestions, your account on how well or how not so well we have delivered our service and yes, even your complaints. Be read and be heard, write to us at **feedback@medicardphils.com.** For queries about MEDICard and its medical services write to us at **inquiry@medicardphils.com.**

Meet your MEDICard Team

MEDICard accredited dentist, **Dr. Enrico L. Dolatre** has been a member of our medical service provider team since its beginning in 1987. Dr. Dolatre finished Dental Medicine at the University of the East and is now also a practicing Orthodontist. As the current President of the Philippine Dental Association-Antipolo City Chapter, Doc Enrico is active in sponsoring dental missions to different barangays in Antipolo City. Aside from these, he also finds time in his busy schedule to support the dental needs of the members of the Philippine United Senior Citizens Association. This philanthropic dentist currently holds clinic at 17-C West Gate Arcade, Broadway Centrum in Quezon City. Visit him for your dental healthcare needs from Mondays to Saturdays, 9 AM to 5 in the afternoon.

Contract Signing



MYFORTUNE.BIZ, INC., a direct referral marketing company, signed its healthcare agreement with MEDICard for the HMO program of its employees and agents last January 23. Present during the contract signing were (L-R) Mr. Bernard J. Zulueta (MEDICard Orientation Specialist), Mr. Voltaire R. Victoria (MEDICard Marketing and Sales Manager) and Mr. Luis S. Montoya (MEDICard EVP & GM). Attending from MyFortune were Mr. Benjamin R. Magsino, Jr. (MyFortune President) and Mr. Sonny V. Serrano, Jr. (MyFortune Vice President for Network Operations).

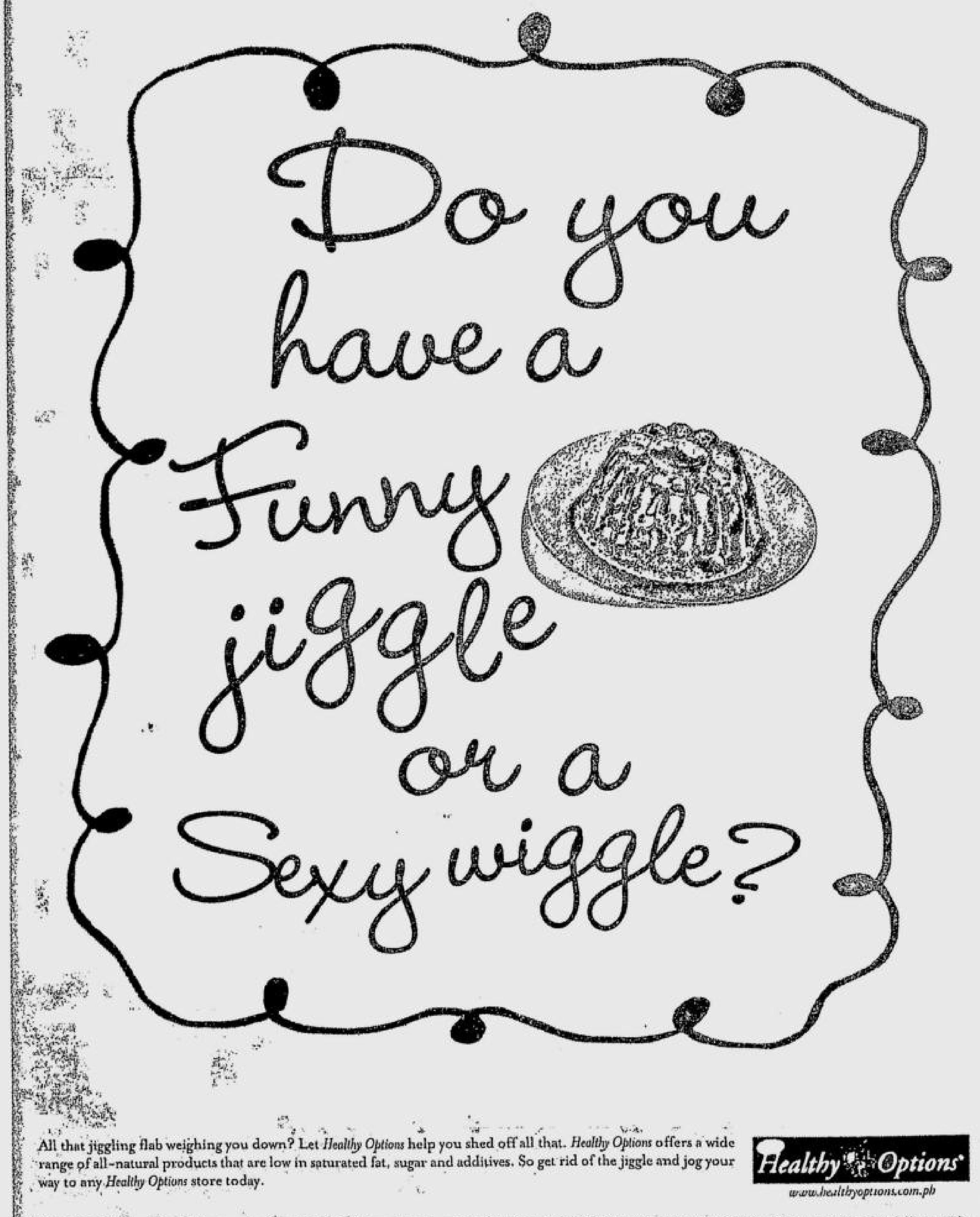
We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com.

For individual or family membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, please call 817-5136, 817-4985 or 817-5127 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. ***Log on to www.medicardphils.com***

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002


Do you have a Funny jiggle or a Sexy wiggle?

All that jiggling flab weighing you down? Let *Healthy Options* help you shed off all that. *Healthy Options* offers a wide range of all-natural products that are low in saturated fat, sugar and additives. So get rid of the jiggle and jog your way to any *Healthy Options* store today.

Healthy Options
www.healthyoptions.com.ph

Shangri-La Plaza, Edsa • Rustan's Supermarket, Makati • Festival Supermall, Alabang • SM City, North Edsa • SM City, Manila • Greenbelt, Makati • SM Megamall, Edsa • Ayala Center, Cebu

Please fill out this coupon and present at any *Healthy Options* branch to get a SPECIAL GIFT.

Personal Information
Name: ____________ SURNAME ____________ FIRST NAME ____________ M.I. Birthday: ___/___/___ MM DD YYYY
Address: ____ NO. ____ STREET ____ VILLAGE ____ MUNICIPALITY ____ CITY ____ ZIP CODE
☎: ____________ ____________ ____________

Do you have any of the following?
Please check all that apply to you.
○ Arthritis
○ Diabetes
○ Weight problems
○ Hypertension
○ Food allergies
○ Heart ailment
○ Liver problems
○ Menopause
○ Others ____________

Are you a *Healthy Options* customer? ○ yes ○ no

Keep your hands on your dumbbells, not your cell phone

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

I'M sure you have seen that two-page full color ad released a few weeks ago of an attractive young woman using her cell phone while exercising in a gym. No offense meant, but while it might have made for a cute ad it just wasn't a smart way to exercise. In fact, it's downright dumb.

Using your cell phone in the gym will not only distract you and the others around you during workout, but can also result in injury. We had a hardheaded client who would not only text during her aerobics class but also answer and make calls. While the teacher repeatedly reminded everyone not to use a cell phone during class, she would be overheard telling the person on the other end to speak louder because "it is so noisy here." Well, the teacher and the rest of the class eventually had the last laugh because one day, as the woman texted while doing step aerobics, she fell off her bench. Luckily, she didn't get hurt but she could have twisted an ankle or hit her head on another bench. After the initial shock, the teacher and class quietly snickered and prayed that she had finally learned her lesson. She had.

There was a TV ad a few months back of a young man who got so engrossed texting while on a treadmill that he stood still and was promptly thrown off. Well, life imitates art. Someone told me the same thing happened in their gym. I'm not surprised since many of us get so immersed in our texting that we forget where we are. Unfortunately, we also forget that we can get seriously hurt falling down stairs, getting hit by a car while crossing the street, or getting flung off a treadmill while texting.

Cell phones can easily get misplaced or stolen in a gym because there are so many people working out at the same time. The safest place for your cell phone is inside your locker (assuming your gym uses good locks). The strangest case we had of cell phone loss was, believe it or not, when a client flushed her brand new cell phone down the toilet. She absent-mindedly placed her phone on her lap while she was doing her thing, reached behind to flush, stood up, and watched in horror as she saw her cell phone disappear. We felt bad for her, but it wasn't much fun for us either because we had to call plumbers to remove the entire toilet bowl since the phone clogged everything up. Needless to say, the phone was totally ruined and the poor client had to go home and face her irate mother who had just given her the phone for her birthday.

Totaled

Two years ago, I overheard some instructors during an Asian fitness convention talking about a client who smashed his cell phone. The man forgot he had put the phone down on the floor beside him and he dropped his dumbbells after an exhausting set of seated bicep curls. As uncharitable as it might sound, they were correct in saying that it served the client right for bringing his cell phone with him as he worked out.

Like many of you, I also have an umbilical cord attached to my cell phone (how did I ever survive without it?), but having it around while exercising can be very irritating to the people around you. It's a good thing I don't bring my phone to my aerobics class because I am the teacher. Can you imagine what my class would do to me if I stopped several times to answer calls or to send text messages? I must say that my regular aerobics students are very well-behaved. The only ones allowed to have their phones beeping or ringing are the doctors. But I have seen other classes where clients crawl on the floor during the mat work portion to answer their phones. I have seen the irate looks of the other clients when a phone rings in the middle of a serene yoga or Pilates class.

You would think they were being called because of an emergency, but the worse part was you'd overhear them telling their helper what to cook for lunch or discussing with a friend where to meet up after class. Talk about irritating.

> Using your cell phone in the gym will not only distract you and the others around you during workout, but can also result in injury

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Lost art

Have you ever seen a group of teenagers sitting around a table not talking to each other but texting away like mad? Well, the same thing used to happen among our teenage clients except they were seated on strength training machines. Naturally, other clients would get mad because the youngsters were hogging the machines as their faces were glued to their cell phone screens. This is now a thing of the past because we laid down the law. But it was a hard habit to break. You could see how uncomfortable they were being away from their phones for even just an hour. I can't say I don't know how they feel because I am also addicted to my phone, but you just can't exercise properly with it around.

I found out how distracting it could be to text and exercise at the same time when our association (AFPP—Association of Fitness Professionals of the Phils.) hosted a three-day national convention last November. The first day was a yoga fundamentals certification course. As secretary of the association, I had to answer inquiries from other members who were attending the next day. I didn't want to miss the certification course but I also had an obligation to attend to the needs of our members. My solution was to ask permission from the certifying instructor (a foreigner who was totally awed by the speed of my Pinoy thumb) that I would stay at the back of the room, keep my phone on silent and answer all the text messages coming in. That day went by like a blur. It's a good thing I was a yoga practitioner in the late '70s and had been teaching fitness yoga for four years now; otherwise, there was no way I could have passed the certification. The texting was just too distracting. try answering SMS while doing the Downward Facing Dog or the Cobra, and you'll know what I mean.

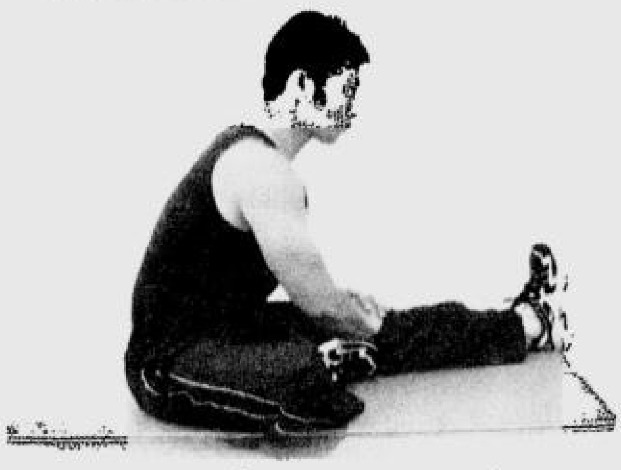
When I do my weights strength training routine at home, I have to resist the temptation to keep looking at my phone every time it beeps. So I keep it on silent and as far away from me as possible; otherwise it would take me much longer to finish my workout.

Practice proper cell phone etiquette at the gym by keeping your phone in your locker or at least keeping it on silent mode while exercising, if your gym bag is near you. Avoid, as much as possible, answering calls or texting while working out. Otherwise, you could end up distracted, injured and persona non grata to everyone around you.

Next week: Other dumb things you shouldn't do in a gym

For questions and past articles or exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Seated Hamstring Stretch

STRETCHES the back of the thighs (hamstrings), which are usually tight in a lot of people. Tight hamstrings can contribute to lower back pain by pulling the pelvis and spine into a kyphotic or "flat back" posture. Tight hamstrings are also more likely to get strained or pulled during sports or everyday activities.

Equipment:
Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

Sit with one leg straight in front of you, the other bent at the knee with your foot against your inner thigh.

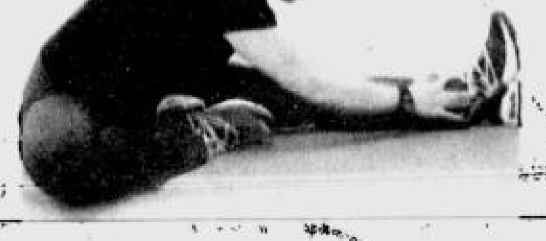
Keeping your chest open, slowly lean forward from your hip joint until you feel a stretch in the back of your thigh.

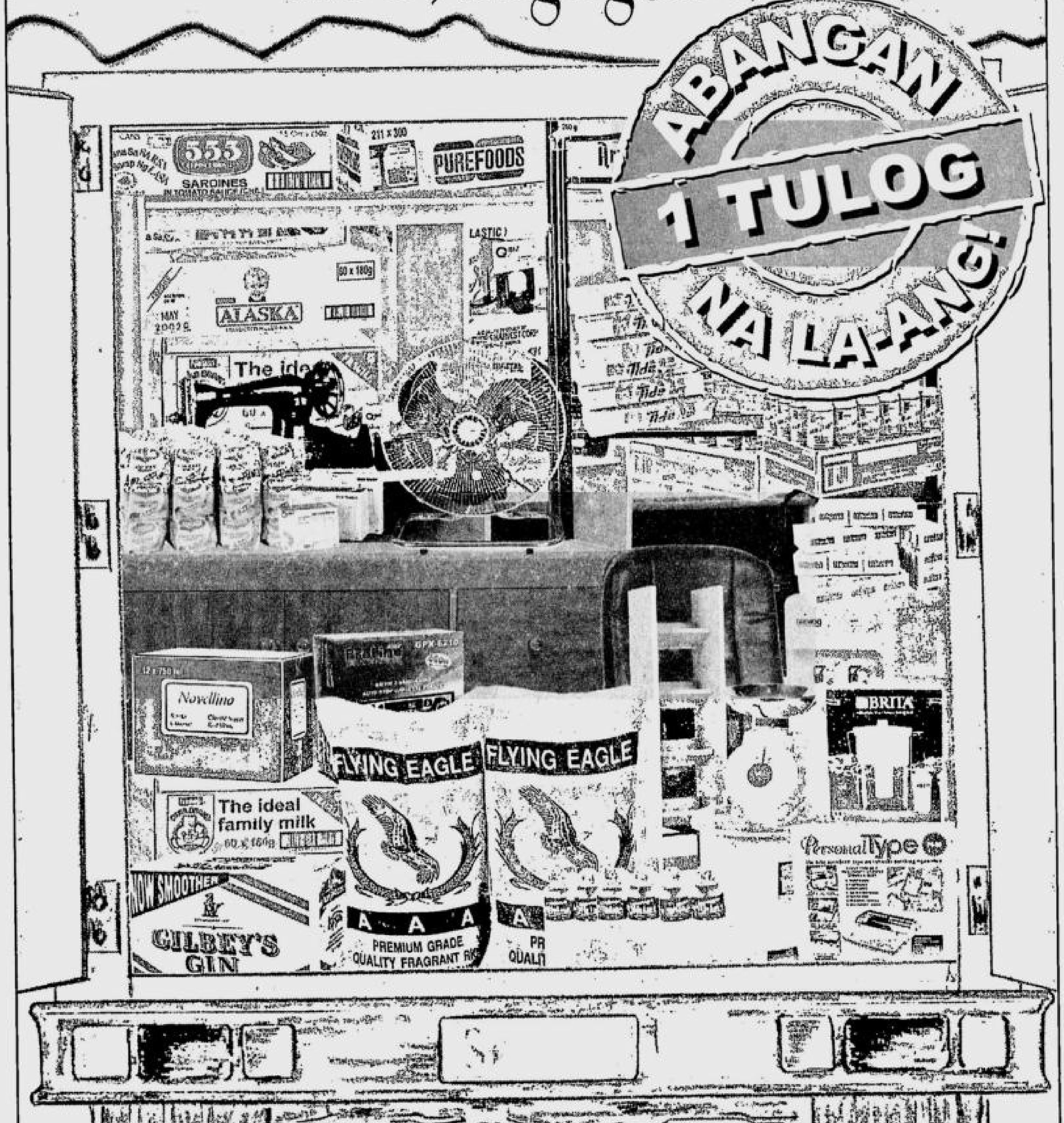
Hold the stretch for 15-30 seconds. Continue breathing normally.

Do the other leg.

Performance tips:

1. Lean forward from your hip joint, not your spine. The male model is less flexible than the female model, but both are leaning forward from the hip instead of curling at the spine.
2. Avoid starting the movement by bending the head.
3. Avoid stretching to the point of pain.
4. If you flex your foot, you will also feel a stretch in the calf.





Aba'y trak-trak ga ang mabibili mo sa MAKRO.
Ala eh, talagang sulit!

MAKRO IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR
LICENSED BUSINESSES ONLY.

PAANO MAGING MIYEMBRO?

1 Bumisita sa Makro Batangas: National Road cor. Provincial Road, Brgy. Balagtas, Batangas City

2 Sagutan ang application form* na makukuha sa registration desk.
* Subject for approval

3 Ilakip sa application form ang original at photocopy ng inyong mayor's permit at valid identification

4 Magagamit ninyo ang Temporary Trade Card para makapamili kaagad

CONSTRUCTED ON TIME WITH THE HELP OF OUR BUILDING PARTNERS:

DWIGHTSTEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS INC.
SYSTEMS POWERMARK CORPORATION
TARGET display Co., Inc.
IRVINE CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION
Luwa Lepco PHILIPPINES, INC.
MIDDLEBY WORLDWIDE PHILIPPINES, INC.